

Soviets push Gulf mediation

MOON (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who has offered to mediate in Iran-Iraq peace talks, is visiting Iraq to discuss Gulf peace and other issues, Tehran Radio said Monday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Markiz Shermad said Petrovsky would give a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when they met. "All matters of mutual interest would be on the agenda," Shermad told Reuters when asked if Petrovsky, who arrived in Tehran Sunday, would discuss Moscow's mediation proposal. Iran and Iraq, deadlocked in U.N.-mediated peace talks which followed their August 1980 conflict, welcomed in January an offer by Shevardnadze to host a meeting of their foreign ministers in Moscow. The Soviet Union's position as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and its good relations with both Iran and Iraq were seen as important advantages in its role as mediator.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Group claims attack on Israelis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Lebanese group said its fighters attacked Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Monday. The Syrian Nationalist Social Party (SNSP) said its men had been locked in tank and rocket battles with Israeli troops and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen for three hours in Taibeh, a village eight kilometres from the Israeli border. "A guerrilla unit of the Syrian Nationalist Social Party — the unit of martyr Mohammad Sleim — is carrying out a spectacular attack on the Zionist occupation army on the road of Bint Jbeil-Kafra," the party said in a statement. It said the fighting began at 7.30 a.m. (0430 GMT) and Israeli warplanes were flying over the battle zone. The SNSP, a close ally of Syria, has been behind at least six deadly attacks against Israeli troops and the SLA since the Israelis set up the "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985. According to Israeli sources SLA men killed one of the attackers and captured another Monday. One SLA militiaman was wounded in the clash, the sources said.

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King to open ATF meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will open in Amman next Saturday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein and with the participation of delegates from various Arab states. The conference, which will be held under the slogan "Education in the Arab World during the 21st century," the meeting will review a general report for 1989 and hear speeches from the participants, all prominent scholars and scientists from Jordan and other Arab countries.

Mubarak's Moscow visit rescheduled

MOSCOW (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's postponed visit to the Soviet Union, the first by an Egyptian leader in 18 years, has been rescheduled for later this month. TASS news agency said the visit, originally planned for March, would take place in mid-May, but gave no further details. Mubarak's visit was postponed because Soviet leaders could spare no time to see him amid a key session of the country's parliament, which extended Mikhail Gorbachev's powers as executive president.

Pakistan orders probe into blast

LAHORE (AP) — The government ordered an investigation Monday into the bombing of an express train in which 13 passengers died, and one official suggested India or Afghanistan might have been involved. No one claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast, which also injured 40 people. "I do not rule out the possibility of either an Indian or Afghan hand behind it," Railways Minister Zaffar Leghari told reporters. "A two-kilogramme bomb ripped through the first-class car of an express train bound for the southern port city of Karachi. Twelve people died at the scene Sunday, and one person died of massive injuries at a Lahore hospital Monday, authorities said."

Prominent Tamil politician shot dead

COLOMBO (R) — Motorcycle gunmen shot dead a leading Tamil member of parliament and critically wounded his wife in the Sri Lankan capital Monday, military sources said. The two gunmen opened fire on the car of politician Sam Thambimuttu as he and his wife Kala drove to the Canadian high commission (embassy) in Colombo to collect visas. Police said the identity of the gunmen was not known. Political sources said they were suspected members of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group. Thambimuttu, a 58-year-old lawyer, had accused the Tigers of abducting his wife and son for about four days.

Antigua probes Israeli arms

TEL AVIV (R) — Officials from the Caribbean island of Antigua were arriving Monday to investigate a weapons shipment that ended in the hands of Colombian drug dealers, the foreign ministry said. A spokesman said Israel sold the government of the tiny state of Antigua and Barbuda Gatling rifles and Uzi submachine guns in 1989 but Antigua officials denied ordering or receiving any weapons. The 500 weapons and ammunition, worth some \$200,000 were recovered by Colombian government officials after Colombian druglord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was killed by police in December 1989.

French lawyer missing in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police said Monday they were searching for a French lawyer believed missing in Beirut. Marcel Paul Cecaldi was last seen April 30 at the fashionable Bristol Hotel in west Beirut, they said. The lawyer, 43, booked into the hotel April 27 and disappeared three days later, one of the hotel managers told Reuters.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz (Petra photo)

120,000 under curfew in West Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army confined more than 120,000 Palestinians to their homes in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank Monday and at least seven residents were wounded in clashes with soldiers.

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians as demonstrators with stones battled troops in one of the fiercest clashes in the city. Witnesses said hundreds of youngsters blocked streets with rocks and threw stones on a truck driven by an Israeli. Reuters reported: "They also stoned an army jeep which arrived on the scene firing tear-gas, rubber bullets and eventually live ammunition."

The army detained three Palestinian cameramen working for the Viasat television agency, Worldwide Television News (WTN) and the Palestinian-run Al Quds Television Production, and a freelance photographer while they filmed the clashes.

An Israeli spokesman said the army imposed a curfew on the Gaza Strip town of Rafah and the adjacent refugee camp after a local teenager was shot and killed in clashes with soldiers on Sunday.

Mohammad Khalid Musa was shot in the head during stone-throwing in the town, on the border with Egypt. Palestinians said the army shot and wounded at least 14 people Sunday during spontaneous demonstrations in the camp and town, which have a combined population of some 100,000, after news of the boy's death reached the streets.

The army also confined residents of the Tulikarm refugee camp and the nearby village of Masha to their homes to prevent protests after a camp resident was shot dead Saturday in clashes with troops. Stores and shops were closed in the town of Tulikarm Monday in mourning. Residents said soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians during stone-throwing incidents on Gaza City's main street.

They said another was wounded by army gunfire in the Rimal quarter of Gaza City and a fourth in the town of Khan Younis.

Meanwhile a top general stirred an uproar in the Israeli army Monday by suggesting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should fire senior commanders for failing to crush the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, armed forces chief of staff, reprimanded the officer, Major-General Moshe Bar-Kochba, for going public with his criticism in Israeli newspapers, a military official said. It was one of the few disclosures of high-level army infighting about tactics since the uprising began 29 months ago. Bar-Kochba, 60, adviser to the general staff on strategic planning, is a former head of southern command and won a citation for his role in tank battles during the 1967 war.

Women move to block male hairdresser ban

By Ghader Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A decision by the Ministry of Interior to ban male hairdressers from beauty parlours catering to women has sparked a controversy, prompting a group of women to start planning a campaign to pressure the government to reverse the decision.

The women's group met Monday to plan a strategy to put pressure on the concerned authorities not to pass or enforce the decision by the ministry, according to one of the participants at the meeting.

"The implications of the decision is not limited to banning male hairdressers in beauty parlours for women," she told the Jordan Times. "This is a clear violation of civil liberties and a clear indication that the government is only listening to one political group in the country at the expense of others," she added. "What is the next step; will they ban male gynaecologists?"

The decision by the ministry, disclosed in a local Arabic newspaper Sunday, is widely seen as a result of pressure on the government by Islamist groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood.

One Lower House of Parliament member said: "The government is following a policy of appeasement when it comes to the Muslim Brotherhood." The deputy, who asked for anonymity, said the issue was brought up in Parliament and was referred to the Lower House's administrative committee and had not yet been presented to a full House session for a vote. The House is now in recess and is expected to reconvene later this month.

Senator Leila Sharaf, who is a former minister of information, also expressed dismay at the decision, which sources say could adversely affect the breadwinners of up to 5,000 families. "The government appears to only respond to pressure we have to pressure them too," Sharaf said.

The Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary spokesman Abdul Latif Arbayyat welcomed the decision and countered the charge made by many lawyers and ordinary citizens that the decision was an infringement of civil liberties and a breach of the Constitution, which states all citizens are equal.

"Men doing women's hair is not a norm of our society. So this issue cannot be considered an infringement of freedom of choice," Arbayyat told the Jordan Times Monday.

The deputy also dismissed assertions that the ban will increase unemployment in the country, a major problem facing the Kingdom. "We are for women's right and this decision will give women more job opportunities in one of their profession," he said. "There are more unemployed women than men, so this could be considered as a positive move for women and the economy."

Several years ago, the cassation court, which is Jordan's highest court of law, heard a case in which the Municipality of Irbid banned male hairdressers from practising in the city. In its ruling, the court overturned the municipal decision saying that men were free to practise the profession. Members of the hairdressers

Jordan, S. Arabia stress need for Arab unity

King: No plan to shift summit from Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — There is no intention to shift the venue for a proposed extraordinary Arab summit from Baghdad, His Majesty King Hussein said Monday after talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz.

"The (proposed) summit will be held in Baghdad and there is no intention whatsoever to change the location to somewhere else," the King said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after talks with Prince Abdullah, who arrived here earlier in the day from Baghdad.

"I hope that Arab leaders will work to make this summit successful and I also hope that our brethren in Syria and Iraq will reconcile soon," the King told Petra.

The King said he had no knowledge that Saudi Arabia was seeking to convene a mini-summit of the leaders of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in a bid to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences

and clear the way for a full-scale summit.

The King emphasised the need to convene an extraordinary summit to the Iraqi capital during this month, and said the "grave challenges facing the Arab World warrant such a conference where the Arab heads of state can discuss means of fending off the looming dangers."

"Pan-Arab security will be the main item on the summit's agenda since the current challenges constitute a real danger to comprehensive Arab security," the King was quoted as saying by Petra.

The King said his recent talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia covered the current situation in the Arab World and means to bolster Arab solidarity. "Saudi Arabia and Jordan are in the forefront of Arab states striving to ensure Arab solidarity and promote understanding," he said.

Petra said the King's talks with Prince Abdullah dealt with preparations for the proposed summit, particularly Saudi efforts to create the opportune atmosphere to convene it and "crystallise a

united Arab stand on dangers threatening Arab national security and the Arab Order."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the visit to Jordan by Prince Abdullah was within the framework of distinguished Jordanian-Saudi relations constantly promoted by the Saudi and Jordanian monarchs.

Badran voiced appreciation of Saudi Arabia's efforts to bring about solidarity among Arab countries and said Jordan would maintain coordination in efforts in this regard with Saudi Arabia. Badran said Jordan was optimistic that the proposed summit would give further momentum to collective Arab action in the face of the present critical circumstances.

In other developments related to the proposed summit:

— Syria restated its position that it would not attend a summit if held in Baghdad and instead called for an Arab foreign ministers' meeting to decide on an alternative venue.

— King Fahd said he would pursue efforts to heal inter-Arab rifts despite the apparent setback to current moves as reflected in the Syrian position;

— Saudi Arabia also denied reports that it was seeking to hold a mini-summit prior to a full gathering of all members of the Arab League;

— The Iraqi foreign minister arrived in Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders and reaffirmed that the summit would be held in the Iraqi capital.

— Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat criticised unidentified Arab states for withholding response to his call for the extraordinary Arab summit.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said Syria had proposed that Arab foreign ministers meet in Tunis to find an alternative venue for the summit. The officials said Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara conveyed Syria's decision Monday to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi, who arrived in Damascus Sunday night.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted Sharara as telling Kibbi: "Finding a venue for the summit without prior consultations... has cast a negative atmosphere in advance of the conference, and this certainly is not in the interest of the Arab Nation."

Sharara, SANA added, suggested that "the Arab League Council convene to conduct consultations on a convenient venue and date for the summit and to agree on the topics to be discussed at the forum."

(Continued on page 5)

Peres leans back into Likud coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour leader Shimon Peres Monday suggested a compromise formula that may allow his party to enter a new coalition government with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud bloc.

Peres engineered the collapse of Labour-Likud alliance March 15, stating Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace plan.

Baker's plan offered Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo as a venue to advance the Israeli proposal of elections in the occupied territories.

Peres now offered Likud a compromise, saying it only needed to accept an unspecified Palestinian delegation, without agreeing to the Baker plan as such.

"What is Baker? To reach an agreement on the composition of the Palestinian delegation," Peres said on Israel Radio. "They need to give a yes answer to the Palestinian delegation."

"The topic is the Palestinian delegation and without that I have no one to negotiate with," he added.

Likud has not ruled out preliminary talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but it says a delegation composed according to the American plan would be representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Likud has stalled preparations for the Cairo talks until the centre-left Labour called a no-confidence vote that brought down the coalition.

After Peres tried and failed to put together a new government, the role was passed on to Shamir. Avi Pazner, a top aide to Shamir, said that Likud would form a narrow coalition to govern the country before it considered a new partnership with Labour.

"Mr. Shamir didn't want to break up the government, the unity fell apart on a yes or no to Baker," he said. "We don't understand, now we don't have to say yes to Baker?"

Likud hardliners and Shamir's right-wing potential partners refuse to accept any possibility of labour joining the coalition. Ariel Sharon, who as defence minister masterminded Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said the "unity" government was a mistake that should not be repeated.

"What is important today is a national Jewish government that is capable of finding solutions to the problems," Sharon said at a political meeting.

Khalaf calls for 'firm' Soviet action to curb Jewish exodus

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Monday the Soviet Union was not doing enough to check Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and urged President Mikhail Gorbachev to take "a firm attitude" on the issue at his summit with U.S. President George Bush.

"The measures taken so far by the Kremlin are good, but stop short of curbing the Soviet Jewish emigration," said Salah Khalaf, second in command in Fateh, the main component in the PLO.

"We appeal to President Gorbachev to take a firm, courageous and principled stand on this question when he meets with President Bush so as to ensure that immigration by Soviet Jews does not endanger our land and existence," Khalaf told the Associated Press in an interview.

"The protection of human rights should not be confined to the rights of the Jews, but should also apply to the Palestinian rights as well," he said.

Gorbachev and Bush are scheduled to meet May 30. Khalaf noted that the Soviets

have called for a U.N. Security Council session in a bid to obtain guarantees that Soviet Jews will not settle in the Israeli-occupied territories and that Moscow has stopped direct flights to Israel.

He condemned last month's non-binding resolution by the U.S. Congress recognising a "united Jerusalem" as the capital of Israel.

However, the U.S. administration has refused to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

He warned that move could "promote extremist tendencies of both the Arab and Israeli sides and impede the peace process."

But he commended U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for rejecting the Israeli notion that the Jews have the right to settle in occupied areas in Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Recent statements by Bush and Baker conform with the world's hostility towards the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories," he said.

Khalaf warned against an im-

minent Israeli attack on Iraq and Jordan.

He said there was "a high probability" that because of the inability of Israel's main political blocs, Labour and Likud, to form a government, "the Israelis may launch an aggression on Iraq, making benefit of the anti-Iraq campaign led by the United States and Britain."

"The other probability is an Israeli attack on Jordan as a step towards realising the long-standing dream of a greater Israel and absorbing the new Jewish immigrants," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was making the situation in the Middle East even more dangerous.

Arafat gave the warning in a message to a United Nations seminar on Palestine being held in Sweden.

"What makes the situation in the Middle East region more dangerous these days is the tremendous influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere," Arafat said.

Moscow puts up show of strength in Riga

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet tanks drove through the Latvian capital Monday morning rushing to form a new government to take the republic to full independence.

Tanks and other armoured vehicles rumbled through the streets of Riga around 8 a.m., ostensibly to prepare for a Victory Day parade Wednesday to mark the 45th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat.

Many Latvians saw the manoeuvres as a tactic by Moscow to intimidate them over Latvia's declaration of independence.

"This morning's parade made people very nervous because they did it during rush hour, and we think the military did it on purpose," said Latvian radio journalist Janis Ozolas.

"To stop transport at 8 a.m., I think they are trying to provoke us," said Ozolas reached by telephone.

The manoeuvres lasted only a short time and the military vehicles left the city centre soon afterwards.

A spokeswoman for the parliament, which declared Latvia "an independent, democratic republic," Friday, said there were calls for local residents to stay away from the Victory Day parade. "People will boycott and just

stay out of the way. No one wants a confrontation," she said.

Latvia's president said the Kremlin had asked him to explain his republic's declaration of independence, and indicated Moscow's reaction might not be as harsh as reported earlier.

The mood in the Latvian parliament was calm as President Antons Gorbunov announced he had received a telephone call from a Soviet lawmaker relaying a request from Mikhail Gorbachev for documents explaining the secession plan. Gorbunov did not give the name of the Soviet lawmaker.

Gorbunov's announcement suggested that Gorbachev had not decided whether to impose economic sanctions against the Baltic republic, as reported Saturday by Latvian Communist Party chief Alfreds Rubiks.

Rubiks said he had spoken by telephone with Gorbachev. State and Communist Party Soviet media have not carried any official reaction from Gorbachev on Latvia's declaration, although reports on state-run radio and television quoted Rubiks Sunday and Monday.

The Latvians have sought to avoid the sanctions that Gorbachev slapped on their sister republic of Lithuania last month for declaring independence.

U.S. threat dominates WHO talks

GENEVA (AP) — The annual assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO) opened Monday in the shadow of a renewed U.S. threat to cut off all funds if the meeting approves the membership bid of the State of Palestine.

A senior U.S. official said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was not entitled to full voting membership in the U.N. health agency because it did not meet internationally recognised criteria of statehood, including control of territory.

"Our position remains that we are opposed to PLO membership in WHO," said John Bolton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organisation affairs.

More than 100 mostly Third World countries have recognised the Palestinian state since it was proclaimed by the PLO's legislative body in November 1988.

Bolton told a press conference that the United States would be pressing to defer the Palestinian application indefinitely and was balking talks with other countries.

Western diplomats say the membership bid is unlikely to be approved by the 167-nation assembly as many Third World countries fear a U.S. funding cutoff.

Lahd: Hostage deal must include SLA men, Israelis 2 American senators call on Israel to free Arab 'hostages'

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 350 Lebanese Muslim prisoners, most held in southern Lebanon by a militia wholly dependent on Israel, have become a central issue in efforts to gain the release of more Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Two senior U.S. senators, Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Republican Robert Dole, speaking not publicly while the Bush administration remains diplomatically silent, urged Israel Sunday to free its Arab "hostages."

But Israel insists its captives, mostly from the pro-Israeli Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God) movement that is believed to control Lebanon's shadowy hostage-takers, will only be traded for six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

A senior Israeli official said recently the Jewish state would release "not one hair on the beard" of its Shi'ite prisoners until Israeli's own men came home.

After releasing two American hostages, Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, last month Hizbollah and Iran have demanded Washington pressure Israel into freeing its Lebanese captives before the remaining 15 Western hostages are released.

The best known Shi'ite prisoner is Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a senior Hizbollah cleric in South Lebanon who was snatched from his home by helicopter-borne Israeli commandos last July.

"Security sources say Obeid is one of the few prisoners held at a military base inside Israel."

Most are kept by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) of General Antoine Lahd at a prison in Khiam in Israel's self-declared "security zone," an arm's-length arrangement by which Israel evades direct responsibility for their detention and denies the International Committee of the

occupied territories and many later became leaders of the Palestinian uprising that erupted in 1987.

Western intelligence sources believe the hostages are being held in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon to prevent any Israeli or U.S. operation to free them by force.

The sources said the two recently freed were only taken to Beirut shortly before their release.

The issue of Israel's missing servicemen complicates any hope of a swap.

Three are believed to be in Hizbollah's hands — an airman shot down in 1986 and two infantrymen ambushed in the security zone earlier that year. The other three, a tank crew missing since the 1982 Lebanon invasion, are believed to have been captured by Syria or Syrian-backed Palestinian fighters.

Illustrating the complexity, one Western intelligence source said Israel abducted a South Lebanese Shi'ite militant, Jawad Casfi, eight months before it snatched Obeid in the belief that would pressure Hizbollah to free airman Ron Arad.

Arad was first held by the more moderate Shi'ite movement Amal, but his captor, Mustafa Dirani, defected to Hizbollah in 1987 and took the prisoner with him, the source said.

It turned out that Casfi, a Dirani supporter, was not a big enough bait to lure Hizbollah into a swap, the source said.

Although Israel declares it never deals with hostage-takers, there is a precedent for helping to free U.S. citizens. Israel freed some 700 Shi'ites and Palestinians in 1985 in three stages after Shi'ite hijackers freed 40 American passengers aboard a Trans World Airlines (TWA) jet in Beirut.

Meanwhile Lahd told Reuters he had suspended traditional releases of prisoners to mark holidays to end speculation that this was a payoff for the freeing of Western hostages.

Asked whether there was a chance of a deal to swap hostages for SLA prisoners, who include Palestinians, Communists and Hizbollah members, Lahd said: "If it is only for the Western hostages, then no."

"If it is for the SLA, Israeli and Western detainees then there is a possibility to reach agreement which would cover not only (SLA-held) people but maybe also prisoners in Israel," he said.

Lahd said four SLA men were missing after armed men seized them more than 18 months ago. Another five had disappeared and three or four civilians from South Lebanon had been kidnapped.

"If these people were returned we would certainly reciprocate by measures facilitating (other) exchanges and also freeing a number of people," he said.

He said the SLA currently held 300 people at its Khiam camp three kilometers southeast of Marjayoun.

The SLA released four prisoners last month to mark the latter part of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, he added.

Lahd declined to name the missing SLA members on the ground that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was working on their cases.

Israel says six of its servicemen have gone missing in Lebanon. At least three are believed to be alive.

"All these people have families and relatives who will not understand if we free prisoners for Western hostages but do not get their people out at the same time," Lahd said.

Akbulut flies home after talks stall in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut flew home Monday after talks with Iraqi leaders on economic cooperation and border security were stalled by a dispute over the Euphrates River.

Iraqi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two sides agreed on a new trade and technical cooperation protocol, but failed to agree on major issues.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chelabi and Turkey's minister of state, Isin Celbi, signed the protocol at a ceremony attended by Akbulut and Iraq's deputy prime minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan. The details were not immediately disclosed.

Akbulut was accompanied by a delegation of about 250 people, including 150 businessmen. He was seen off at Baghdad airport at the end of his three-day visit by Ramadan and other senior Iraqi officials.

The Turkish leader had hoped to sign several economic agreements and negotiate a new border security agreement giving Turkish forces the right of hot pursuit into northern Iraq in their war against Kurdish guerrillas.

A 1984 security pact expired last year. But Kurdish separatists in southeastern Turkey have recently stepped up their guerrilla campaign against the Ankara government.

Kurdish insurgents on the Iraqi side of the border have been fighting the Baghdad government for decades in a campaign for an independent homeland in the mountainous north of the country.

Despite the failure to negotiate new agreements, Iraqi officials said the talks were "fruitful and constructive" and said the two sides will conduct further discussions later.

The main stumbling block was the Euphrates dispute. Baghdad demanded a guaranteed share of water from the river which originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and refused to sign a security agreement unless the Turks met Iraqi terms on the Euphrates water.

The 2,300-kilometre river flows through Syria and then Iraq before joining the Tigris River, which also originates in Turkey, to form the Shatt-Al-Arab Waterway that runs into the Gulf.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey, its northern neighbour, soured in January when the Turks cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill the reservoir of the huge Ataturk Dam in south-eastern Anatolia province.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported Sunday that disagreements soon emerged on the Euphrates issue and border security.

The Iraqis are pressing for an agreement that will fix flow rates for all the states along the Euphrates and want another bilateral treaty on sharing water from the Tigris.

Sources close to the talks said Sunday the Iraqis made it clear to the Turks that they were reluctant to renew the security accord.

Relations were further jolted last week when Turkey returned to Britain a truckload of metal tubes destined for Iraq and seized on the Bulgarian border.

It was the third seizure of British-made metal tubes destined for Iraq in recent days. The others occurred in Britain and Greece.

As tensions rise, Israel fears loss of U.S. support

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV. — The increasing tension in relations with Washington has deepened Israel's fear it may be losing the U.S. support that has underwritten its economic and military strength.

"We haven't seen evidence any of this money is vulnerable," said a senior diplomat in Tel Aviv. "But in two or three years, who knows?"

Concern emerged before the fall of the Israeli government in March and has grown since. Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's drift to the right is alienating both U.S. officials and American Jews vital for securing U.S. aid.

That aid flows at a level undreamed of by any other country — more than \$650 annually per Israeli. American taxpayers pick up the bill for a third of Israel's military budget.

"There is a deterioration of support for Israel," U.S. Senator Robert Dole said in a series of warnings delivered during his visit last month to Israel.

By his estimate Israel is getting closer to \$4 billion than the \$3 billion usually cited — \$1.8 billion in military grants and \$1.2 billion for the civilian budget.

Israeli media were quick to note that other American politicians disagreed with Dole, the Republican Party leader in the Senate, but officials fear his views may reflect a fundamental shift in the once unquestioning U.S. support.

"What he was saying was quite unprecedented," said a senior Western diplomat in Israel, who shared the widespread perception that Dole was speaking indirectly

for the Bush administration. U.S.-Israeli friction has existed almost since President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker took office two years ago and decided to tackle the Middle East conflict.

Baker publicly pressed Shamir to seek peace with the Palestinians who have been in revolt against Israeli rule since December 1987. Shamir dug in his heels and refused in March to accept a U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Although both Israelis and Americans say the current aid level is secure, each divergence of Israeli and U.S. interests increases doubts.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dole wants to cut aid to major recipients by five per cent and redirect it to emerging democracies. Even if he fails, the buying power of the aid is reduced each year by inflation.

Debate on aid falls into two categories — military, which both sides expect will remain strong, and economic, which could face increasing pressure.

Close military ties established during the eight years of Ronald Reagan's presidency are likely to continue, especially as U.S. dependence on imported oil continues to rise.

"If the strategic relationship is important to the United States, to damage it is to shoot yourself in the foot," said Dore Gold, an expert on U.S.-Israeli relations at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Port calls by U.S. ships to Haifa rose steadily through the 1980s and the United States is

considering pre-positioning military equipment in Israel for forces sent to the region.

"I see the strategic relationship as very strong," said Gold. He is much less optimistic about other aid. "The political one is very problematic."

Israelis were angered by a recent article in the American magazine Newsweek that portrayed their rich living a life of jayzuzis, expensive cars and foreign travel. Israel's image in America is changing.

Despite slow growth and high inflation, Israelis are not suffering from conditions normally associated with foreign aid. Less aid would mean a lower standard of living, not poverty.

Israel's fears come as it is seeking extra money to settle the flood of Soviet immigrants, who reached more than 10,000 in April.

Israel wants the United States to guarantee loans of \$400 million to house the immigrants but Washington wants proof the money will not be used to settle Soviet Jews on occupied Arab land.

While Washington waits for a new government to provide the assurance, Shamir's interim administration has embarked on more Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

The government crisis was triggered by Shamir's refusal to accept the U.S. proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks. He has not moderated his views and is positioned to remain as prime minister in charge of a rightwing government.

Each shift to the right will provide ammunition to those in Washington who believe Israel's priorities are not the same as the U.S. goal of a calm Middle East.

Petrovsky in Iran to discuss Gulf peace

NICOSIA (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, whose country has offered to mediate in Iran-Iraq peace talks, is visiting Iran to discuss Gulf peace and other issues, Tehran Radio said Monday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Samadpour said Petrovsky would give a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when they met.

"All matters of mutual interest would be on the agenda," Samadpour told Reuters when asked if Petrovsky, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday, would discuss Moscow's mediation proposal.

Iran and Iraq, deadlocked in U.N.-mediated peace talks which followed their August 1988 ceasefire, welcomed in January an offer by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to host a meeting of their foreign ministers in Moscow.

The Soviet Union's position as

a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and its good relations with both Iran and Iraq were seen as important advantages in its role as mediator.

Velayati said then a Soviet deputy foreign minister would visit Tehran to follow up the proposal, but the mission did not materialise and Iranian officials later said it was put off because the Kremlin was pre-occupied with internal problems.

Tehran insisted that the Soviet effort must be within the framework of the Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Apart from the ceasefire which ended eight years of fighting, the resolution calls for withdrawal of troops behind international borders, repatriation of 100,000 prisoners of war and other steps towards a settlement.

Iran last week repeated its rejection of Iraqi calls for direct and separate peace talks.

But Iran's National Security Council and the parliament's

Foreign Affairs Commission have held meetings over the past week to discuss a letter sent by the Iraqi government about the peace negotiations.

Iranian media have reported no details about the letter which the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said was the first of its kind since the ceasefire.

Sarmadi would not comment on its contents. "However, we would consider any proposal on the implementation of the Resolution (598) and establishment of peace," he added.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said Iran Monday urged China, another permanent member of the Security Council, to press for an Iran-Iraq settlement.

"We expect China to contribute to the implementation of Resolution 598 within the frameworks of the efforts of the U.N. secretary-general," it quoted Parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karubi as telling his visiting Chinese counterpart Wan Li.

Kidnappers: Parole move not enough to free Belgians

BEIRUT (R) — Kidnappers of four Belgians said Monday a parole recommendation for a Palestinian jailed in Belgium for a grenade attack on Jews was a positive step but not sufficient to secure freedom for their hostages.

The Belgian News Agency Belga, quoting prison sources, said Monday Nasser Said could be paroled from his life sentence as early as July after the recommendation by prison authorities.

"It is a positive proposal but it is not enough because it is not an official government decision," Walid Khaled, spokesman in Beirut for the Libyan-backed Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

"We hope this proposal is met with a positive response by the Belgian government by immediately releasing Nasser Said as a first step to end the Belgian hostage problem," he told Reuters.

The Belgian hostages — Emmanuel Hostkens, his wife Genevieve Kets and their two teenage children — were aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean when they were seized in 1987.

Asked about the condition of the Belgian hostages, Khaled said: "They are in good health, they are given regular medical care and are provided with all their daily needs."

Belga said administrators of Louvain Prison regarded Said as having been a model prisoner during 10 years in jail.

New evidence admitted in Demjanjuk trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court Monday admitted as evidence accounts from two Polish witnesses who could cast doubt on whether Olin auto-worker John Demjanjuk was the sadistic Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible."

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 70, was sentenced to death in April 1988 after being found guilty of operating the gas chambers at the Treblinka Death Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

Demjanjuk is appealing the sentence, and the first hearing is

scheduled for May 14. Demjanjuk has insisted that he is a victim of mistaken identity. He has said that he spent most of the war in German prisoner-of-war or transit camps after being captured as a Red Army soldier.

The evidence, admitted by the high court Monday, appears to back Demjanjuk's claim. It stems from a married couple, identified in court as Mr. Dudek and Maria Dudek, residents of Vlnka Okrogolnik, a tiny village near the former site of Treblinka.

The couple has claimed that the notorious "Ivan" carried the

last name Marchenko, not Demjanjuk, Demjanjuk's attorney Yoram Sheftel, told the court. Sheftel said Mrs. Dudek, 73, still was a resident of Vlnka Okrogolnik. He told the Associated Press that she lived in a bare wooden shack and worked as a milk-maid. During World War II, Dudek ran a bar and his wife entertained the guard Ivan at least several times, he said.

Dudek, who gave his account to Polish authorities several years ago, has since died, prosecutor Michael Shaked told the court.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	Dr. Hisham Kamani	790286
	Dr. Khalid Abdul Qader	795382
	Dr. Mustafa Al Gharib	776258
	Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
	Firas pharmacy	661912
	Fordown pharmacy	778356
	Al Asma pharmacy	637055
	Nairokh pharmacy	623672
	Al Salam pharmacy	636730
	Shamouk pharmacy	644845
	Yamouk pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	Dr. Asim Abu Eide	(—)
	Al Shams pharmacy	(985238)
AMMAN:	Min./Jus. temp.	
Amman	12/28	
Aqaba	20/33	
Deserts	20/30	
Jordan Valley	15/32	
Yesterday's high temperatures:	Amman 25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings:	Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.
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IRBID:	Dr. Asim Abu Eide	(—)
	Al Shams pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	Dr. Zaidin Abdul Salam	(—)
	Khalaf pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES		
Civil Defence Department	661111	
Civil Defence Emergency	630441	
Rescue	199	
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade	891228	
Stomach Bank	775121	
Highway Police	943402	
Traffic Police	896390	
Public Security Department	630321	
Hotel Complaints	628800	
Price Complaints	661176	
Water and Sewerage	897467	
Complaints	897467	
Amman Municipality	787111	
Complaints	787111	
Telephone Information	(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230	
Central Amman Telephone	661176	
Repairs	623101	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101	
Jordan Television	773111	
Radio Jordan	774111	
Water Authority	680100	
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615	
Electric Power		

Algeria shakes up state media, gives 2 dailies to ruling FLN

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has shaken up its state media, promoting young reform-minded journalists to top posts and handing over the two morning daily newspapers to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

A council of ministers meeting Sunday night confirmed an announcement last year by FLN Secretary General Abdul Hamid Mehri that the French-language Al-Moudjahid and the Arabic language Al-Chaab would henceforth be run by the ruling party.

Opposition parties have unanimously denounced the move as a seizure of state property by the ruling party, which gave up its 27-year-old monopoly on political life last year. The FLN says it founded the papers and should keep them.

The papers have until now been run by the FLN-dominated government but not under direct party tutelage.

The government has already

promised to keep journalists from the state papers who wanted to leave and work for the opposition press on the state payroll for three years.

A council statement carried by the Algerian News Agency (APS) announced new directors for the state radio, television and APS itself.

The appointments follow adoption in March of an information law that breaks the state's long monopoly on the media and sets up a higher information council, half composed of journalists, to regulate the sector.

Tahar Ouetar, one of Algeria's most prominent Arabic-language novelists, was named managing director of the radio. A veteran of the country's war of independence from France, he is known for leftist political views.

Abdoul Beniane, 46, a widely read editorial writer for the FLN weekly Revolution Africaine, was named managing director of

the television. Mohammad Hamdi, 50, former editor of Revolution Africaine dismissed from the post last year after he wrote an editorial critical of the FLN, will assume the managing director's job at APS, held by Belkacem-Ahene Djahallah since 1985.

The government also replaced the managing directors of the two state-owned afternoon dailies, Horizons in French and Al-Messa in Arabic, both of which have surpassed their morning counterparts in circulation in recent months.

Abdul Aziz Sbaa, 35-year-old editor of the liberal weekly Algerie Actualite, and Ali Draz of the youth weekly Al Wahda were named to head Horizons and Al Messa, respectively.

Kheirredine Ameyyar, 44, an editorial writer at Revolution Africaine, was named managing director of Algerie Actualite.

Turkish-Cypriot ruling party keeps power

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriots underlined their hard-line stance on unity talks with Greek-Cypriots by handing the ruling National Unity Party (NUP) an emphatic general elections victory.

The NUP had won 54.5 per cent of Sunday's vote in the breakaway north of the island, 10 percentage points more than their main rivals, with 90 per cent of the votes counted by Monday afternoon.

The result boosted Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who won reelection as president two weeks ago, in his tough stance on unity talks with Cyprus.

"This result has confirmed our people's common sense," said

Denktaş, who used to be leader of the NUP and has ruled with it since he became president in 1985.

Denktaş wants self-determination for Turkish-Cypriots as a distinct community in any unified Cyprus.

The island has been split since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece. Only Ankara recognises the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state.

The opposition Democratic Struggle Party (DSP), a three-party coalition, had been widely tipped to put up a closer fight Sunday.

Its campaign focused on domestic issues including alleged corruption and economic mismanagement.

The DSP accused Denktaş of failing to take his U.N.-sponsored unity talks with Cyprus President George Vassiliou seriously.

The talks broke down in New York in February, with Denktaş saying he wanted unity to be based on a bi-zonal federation and Vassiliou insisting all Cypriots are part of the same community.

The 160,000 Turkish Cypriots fear they could be dominated by the 600,000 Greek Cypriots in a unified state.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish

Tel. 510740.

Assembly of God Church, Tel.

632785, 685326.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.

Armenian Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

628545.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

771751.

St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel.

685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Meteorology.

Temperatures will be around the

annual average and winds will be

eastly moderate. In Aqaba, winds

will be northerly moderate and seas

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.

Amman 12 / 28

Aqaba 20 / 33

Dead Sea 12 / 30

Jordan Valley 15 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman

25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings:

Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 21 per

cent.

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Dr. Hisham Kansan 790286

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Dr. Munther Al Qoraini 776258

Dr. Walid Al Nassi 675485

First pharmacy 661912

Perdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asama pharmacy 637055

Nasrallah pharmacy 623672

Al Salama pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644845

Shamsioun pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Asim Abu Eida (—)

Al-Suqat's pharmacy (385238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Izzeeddin Abdul Salam (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 840403

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661776

Water and Sewerage 661646

Al-Ashl, Ashl 661646

Indian, Al-Nahla 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126

Army, Marks 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Rin Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Qerq Catholic Hospital (02)722725

Rin Al Nafios Hospital (02)47100

AQABA:

Dr. Hamoud (06)222222

Company

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64428216

Alchik Maternity, J. Amn 624102

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malina, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsioun 66417174

Shamsioun Hospital 669131

University Hospital 840403

Al-Masheer Hospital 66722719

The Islamic, Ashl 66612737

Al-Ashl, Ashl 661646

Indian, Al-Nahla 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126

Army, Marks 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Rin Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Qerq Catholic Hospital (02)722725

Rin Al Nafios Hospital (02)47100

AQABA:

Dr. Hamoud (06)222222

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

ment at the Queen Alia International

Airport Tel. (06)22055, where it

should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:20 Bangkok (RJ)

10:00 Jeddah (RJ)

10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:15 Aqaba (RJ)

10:30 Cairo (RJ)

10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 Kuwait (RJ)

11:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

10:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

20:40 Rome (RJ)

21:45 Rome (RJ)

22:00 Rome (RJ)

01:00 Paris (add'l) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:20 Kuwait (KU)

12:00 Moscow (SU)

17:00 Rome (AZ)

18:30 Dubai, Damascus (EK)

20:10 Zurich, Larissa (SR)

01:00 Beirut (ME)

01:00 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

06:00 Aqaba (RJ)

11:00 Tripoli (RJ)

12:00 Rome (RJ)

12:15 Vienna (RJ)

12:45 Moscow (SU)

12:45 Rome (RJ)

13:00 London (RJ)

13:15 Paris (RJ)

13:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)

14:00 Paris (add'l) (RJ)

20:40 Kuwait (RJ)

21:00 Doha, Dhahran (RJ)

21:00 London (RJ)

21:30 Cairo (RJ)

22:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:15 Damascus (RJ)

22:15 Jeddah (RJ)

04:00 Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:25 Kuwait (KU)

15:00 Moscow (SU)

18:00 Dubai (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Almonds 250 / 450

Apple 900 / 850

Bananas 400 / 350

Bananas (Mishmar) 400 / 350

Beans 320 / 280

Broad beans 240 / 200

Cabbages 130 / 100

Carrot 130 / 110

Cauliflower 250 / 200

Cumbers (large) 160 / 120

Cumbers (small) 300 / 250

Dates 400 / 350

Eggplant 180 / 120

Garlic 300 / 450

Green peas 260 / 220

Lentils 300 / 250

Onions (per one) 150 / 100

Malware 400 / 350

Marrow (large) 160 / 100

Marrow (small) 320 / 250

Onion (green) 300 / 250

Onion (red) 300 / 250

Orange 340 / 300

Orange (Shamoun) 400 / 400

Peanut 280 / 240

Pepper (red) 180 / 120

Pepper (green) 180 / 120

Potato 300 / 250

Raddish 150 / 100

Sage 400 / 300

Squash 220 / 150

Tomato 180 / 120

Heart Day race set for Friday

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Heart Day race will be held in Amman Friday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein to help raise funds for the treatment of heart patients in Jordan according to Dr. Adnan Hamawi, chairman of an organising committee.

The race, he said, will begin at Amman Plaza Hotel at 10.30 a.m. and will finish at the University of Jordan where the Queen will distribute cups and awards to men, women and children who come first in the race.

"Altogether 20 awards are to be distributed to the competitors according to Hamawi who gave details about the race at a press conference Monday.

Hamawi said that each competitor will have to pay JD 1 for participation and for obtaining a T-shirt for the race. "Anybody can take part in the race which is

open to all Jordanians," he added.

The race is organised by the Jordanian Chest and Heart Surgeons Society which held similar races in Amman in 1988 and 1989.

Contributions collected in the two previous races, he said, have been financing the treatment of needy patients and the purchase of medicine and medical examination for other patients.

"The society has contacted national organisations to get their support and their contributions and has now registered more than 700 participants mostly school-children, a figure expected to reach 1,500 by Friday," Hamawi said.

The society, which was established in 1986, has not yet received any contributions for its efforts from hospitals and pharmaceutical firms in Jordan, the society has now established its headquarters near the University of Jordan," Hamawi said.

Swedish archaeologists are active in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Swedish archaeological expeditions are currently active in Jordan. This week a team consisting of several Scandinavian archaeologists, among them the Swedish Professor Magnus Ottosson from Uppsala, arrived at Irbid to start digging north-east of the city in a small tell (hill) that could be an important Aramaic border fortification.

The second Swedish archaeological expedition in Jordan is led by Dr. Peter Fischer from the University of Gothenburg. Dr. Fischer's project, which was

started last year, is located just south of Pella in the Jordan Valley. Walls and other finds in the area could be dated as early as the Bronze Age period (2500 B.C.).

This project is officially supported by the Swedish government through its Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation to an amount of JD 107,000 during four years.

The projects are planned and carried out in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

Hospital opens in Rweished

RWEISHED (J.T.) — A 10-bed hospital was opened here Monday to offer medical services to the local population, and the travellers on the Amman-Baghdad route.

The hospital, located some 100 kilometres from the border with Iraq has been provided with all essential equipment and staff, according to Dr. Nael Ajlouni acting director general of the National Medical Institution (NMI).

Ajlouni, who inaugurated the premises, inspected the emergency unit, the operations theatre, the specialists section, the laboratories, the X-ray and pharmacy areas.

Ajlouni said the Rweished Hospital would be an extension of the nearest government hospital located in Mafrak.

"The new hospital will be useful not only for the local residents but for the travellers to and from Iraq and will be providing emergency services to victims of road accidents along the route," Ajlouni said.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ajlouni said the Rweished Hospital is small compared with the other hospitals in the Kingdom, and therefore it is not possible to provide it with all forms of specialised medical services which can be obtained at Mafrak.

Following the inauguration ceremony, Ajlouni visited Mafrak Hospital and was briefed on its services to the Badia and eastern regions of Jordan.

Rweished Hospital is considered part of the government's current efforts to develop the Hamad basin which includes Rweished and other areas close to the Iraqi, Syrian and Saudi Arabian borders.

In March 1990, the Ministry of Agriculture and three local companies signed agreements to help carry out parts of a project for the development of the Rweished region. The agreements were for providing water pumps and operating two artesian water wells at a cost of JD 90,000.

According to Mohammad Shakhateh, director of the Hamad project, Jordanian firms have already drilled six artesian wells with an overall capacity of one million cubic metres of water annually, to provide sufficient water supplies for the local residents and the livestock.

"Other civil works pertaining to the projects in Rweished, including two desert dams together storing up to 13 million cubic metres of water and a veterinary centre, have also been carried out," Shakhateh said.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium was opened in Amman Monday to discuss the role of schools in developing local communities and linking education with community needs.

The symposium, organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will review several working papers on education and its links to rural development in the light of a pilot project being implemented at a girls' secondary school in the village of Marassa in the Jerash district.

UNESCO representative and director of the regional office in Amman, Dr. Mohammad Kazem, told the meeting that a village school should have an essential role in local communities development. "Such a school should not confine its services to providing education, but should try to link basic education with the needs of the local communities through undertaking developmental activities designed to improve the standard of families in rural regions," Kazem said.

"UNESCO has now implemented a pilot project at Marassa near Jerash, as a trial scheme which, if proved successful, could be adopted in other regions of the Kingdom," Kazem added.

He said the pilot school project in the rural area is part of an established UNESCO policy of promoting education in rural regions of the Arab World.

The meeting was opened by

Sweden gives Jordan preferential treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Swedish government decided in March that Jordan will, from May 1, 1990, receive preferential treatment within the Swedish scheme of generalised system of preferences, Sweden's ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback announced here Monday.

"This means, in very simplified terms, that a very large number of Jordanian products that until now would have been subject to customs duties in Sweden can be imported by Sweden without such duties," the ambassador said at the opening of a two-day seminar on marketing Jordanian products in Sweden held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Lonnback said Jordan and Sweden need to learn from and support each other in the fields of industry services, infrastructure, health care or social services, education and culture.

"Both countries need a balanced and sustainable development of their economies including economic growth coupled with a safe environment, jobs and security for their people," the ambassador said.

However, the ambassador said over the past three and a half years trade from Sweden to Jordan had fallen from around JD 20 million to around JD 15 million, and Jordanian exports to Sweden had declined to JD 0.3 million down from JD 1 million.

"Sweden's interest in this seminar, he said, is to inform Jordanian exporters and businessmen about Swedish markets and how to sell to Sweden," the ambassador said.

He said when Jordan sells agricultural products to Sweden, business contacts will be created so that this country can buy Sweden's agricultural technology. Jordan, he said, can sell its pharmaceutical products to Sweden and host Swedish visitors.

The exchange, he said, can promote bilateral cooperation in culture, history, archaeology and launch lucrative and beneficial business deals between the two countries.

The chamber's President Khalid Abu Hassan told the meeting that the present balance of trade with Sweden is heavily in Sweden's favour and the seminar was considered a step to help adjust the balance through increasing the volume of trade exchanged between them and allowing Jordan to sell more to Sweden.

"Sweden currently sells Jordan JD 20 million worth of products annually but buys only JD 20,000 worth of national goods," Abu Hassan explained. In six months from now a Jordanian trade delegation will visit Sweden to follow up on the implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the present seminar," Abu Hassan added.

The seminar was opened by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz who said that the meeting comes at a time when the national economy of Jordan was witnessing deep transformation and when Jordan is trying to promote its trade relations with other countries.

"Jordan embarked on an economic restructuring programme two years ago in order to promote exports, solve economic problems and boost its national industry," said Fariz in his address to the meeting.

"To carry out this programme the Ministry of Industry and Trade has started providing facilities for new industrial investments, offering incentives to industry, encouraging exports of industrial products and providing protection to the local industries," Fariz pointed out.

In the course of implementing this policy, he said, work is underway to promote the functions and the role of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) which is entrusted with acting for Jordanian industrialists in promoting and marketing national products; it facilitates procedures for investors who are offered numerous incentives.

The minister announced that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has now embarked on establishing a national corporation to guarantee credit for exports.

Referring to the economic restructuring programme in Jordan, Fariz said it aims, among other things, at helping the country overcome the recurring deficit in the balance of trade and in the fiscal budget.

Swedish experts and Jordanian industrialists and businessmen are among those attending the seminar which is sponsored by the Swedish embassy and the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Monday addressed the first international Jordanian symposium on communication disorders (Petra photo)

Phonetics research centre opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Monday opened the first international Jordanian symposium on communication disorders and inaugurated a centre for phonetics research at the University of Jordan.

In an address delivered at the opening session on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Princess voiced appreciation to the Swiss government for providing funds and equipment for the project.

The equipment installed in the centre included a mass computer to carry out sound analysis and a laryngograph which helps to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, study psychological and the effect of communication disorders on children's speech.

In her speech the Princess outlined Jordan's endeavours in cooperation with other international organisations to improve health standards and help handicapped people overcome their predicaments.

Jordan, she said has been in on setting up rehabilitation centres for all forms of handicaps, and the new centre for phonetics research is expected to contribute to this national effort.

Among the speakers was Dr. Yousef Al Haili who presented a briefing on the creation and development of the centre for which Switzerland had allocated \$1 million.

He said 200 students with communication disorders have applied for the centre's assistance and currently 10 of them are being provided with initial services.

Rural development is closely linked to education — UNESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium was opened in Amman Monday to discuss the role of schools in developing local communities and linking education with community needs.

The symposium, organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will review several working papers on education and its links to rural development in the light of a pilot project being implemented at a girls' secondary school in the village of Marassa in the Jerash district.

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Youth union hits American resolution on Jerusalem

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The preparatory committee of Jordanian Democratic Youth Union (JDYU) issued its first statement Monday since its establishment, condemning the American Congress resolution which claims that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel.

"With feelings of anger filling the hearts of our youth and people, we condemn the American Senate and Congress resolution claiming that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of the so-called state of Israel," the statement, released to the press, said.

It said the committee of the union sees the resolution as a "crowning" to a series of American measures and aggressive stands against Arab rights.

The preparatory committee of the JDYU announced its establishment April 29 and will apply for legal registration next summer, opening its doors for membership to all Jordanian youth regardless of background and/or political and cultural trends, aiming to solve problems facing the youth in and out of Jordan, such as unemployment, education, production.

One of the aims of the union, as announced by members of the preparatory committee at a press conference late last month, is "to face and combat the dangers of Zionism/imperialism against Jordan and the Arab Nation and to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories until the liberation of the land."

"It is unfortunate that the Arab reaction and position is not equivalent to the aggressive and provocative American

resolution, with the continuation of the so-called Arab-American relations, the continuation of pouring Arab oil to the United States, the depositing of Arab money in American banks, and the continuation of importing American raw material and products," the statement said.

The United States, it added, encourages and supports Israeli terrorism and violations of Arab and Palestinian human rights.

"The U.S. sets the Arab destiny and the Arab (Arab) official position as 'encouragement to continue making such aggressive resolutions and decisions against our people'."

The U.S. Senate adopted a resolution, March 22, recognising Jerusalem as the "undivided" capital of Israel and was later adopted by the Congress, April 24. The decision is a non-binding resolution to the U.S. Administration.

The statement called on a clear and strong Arab stand by allowing the release of the "Arab people's ability" and their freedom to play their role in combatting the humiliations

and dangers coming to the Arab Nation from the Zionists and Imperialists.

It said that there must be serious efforts towards achieving Arab unity on the basis of democracy to guarantee Arab strength, "and putting it (Arab unity) on the road towards achieving Arab goals: freedom, progress, combating the Zionist and imperialist aggression and the liberation of Palestine."

In the meantime, said the statement, there must be serious support for the Palestinian uprising, which enters its 29th month today, to help achieve the legitimate Palestinian rights: the right of return, self-determination and the independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"We are calling on all our youth and people to exert efforts in supporting these nationalist goals and combatting the dangers our people and nation face," the statement said.

Rural development is closely linked to education — UNESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium was opened in Amman Monday to discuss the role of schools in developing local communities and linking education with community needs.

The symposium, organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will review several working papers on education and its links to rural development in the light of a pilot project being implemented at a girls' secondary school in the village of Marassa in the Jerash district.

UNESCO representative and director of the regional office in Amman, Dr. Mohammad Kazem, told the meeting that a village school should have an essential role in local communities development. "Such a school should not confine its services to providing education, but should try to link basic education with the needs of the local communities through undertaking developmental activities designed to improve the standard of families in rural regions," Kazem said.

"UNESCO has now implemented a pilot project at Marassa near Jerash, as a trial scheme which, if proved successful, could be adopted in other regions of the Kingdom," Kazem added.

He said the pilot school project in the rural area is part of an established UNESCO policy of promoting education in rural regions of the Arab World.

The meeting was opened by

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Chemical Fertiliser Producers (AFCFP) opened its fourth meeting in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to coordination and cooperation among various Arab chemical fertiliser industries.

Several working papers dealing with the fertilisers industry, exchange of expertise, planning future projects and other affiliated topics will be reviewed at the three-day meeting.

Arab Potash Company (APC) Managing Director Ali Ensour told the opening session the chemical fertiliser industry is no less important to the world than the oil industry simply because fertilisers are needed by all nations of the world for farming and to increase food production.

"Jordan and Morocco are among the main countries of the world besides the United States and the USSR in producing minerals used in the fertiliser industry," Ensour said.

He said Jordan abounds with phosphate and potash which are essential to the fertiliser industry and the Dead Sea provides a constant source of potash and other very useful minerals.

Jordan, he said, currently produces 1.4 million tonnes of fertilisers, expected to reach 2.2 million by the year 1996.

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Petra hosts third annual competition for horses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third annual competition for the best kept and best turned-out horse was held at Petra for the tourist horses last Friday morning. It was to encourage owners to look after their horses and improve the standard of care of saddlery as well as horses. Points were awarded for the cleanliness, safety and correctness of saddlery in addition to the cleanliness and condition of the horses.

The first prize saddle was won by Mohammad Eisa Sfaran with his very smart chestnut mare, the second prize a bridle, was won by Saleh Ibrahim Al Falahat, and the third prize, JD 15, was won by Ahmad Mohammad Mashala.

There were cash prizes up to fifteenth place, and all 45 finalists chosen beforehand from a total of 350 horses received a rosette.

In the absence of the Brooke Hospital's Patron Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, judging was carried out this year by Brigadier Nimer Hmoud, director of police in Aqaba, who has racehorses in Amman and a stud of breeding horses in the Jordan Valley. Attending the competition were the Brooke's organising secretary in London Richard Seagrave, grandson of founder Dorothy Brooke, and Brigadier Sami Hassan, the Brooke Hospital's director in Cairo.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

- * Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of Jordanian national heritage at the Amman International Community College.
- * Exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts displaying rugs, knit-wear, traditional costumes and brass works at Madaba Resthouse.
- FILM**
- * Documentary programme entitled "American Art in the States" at the American Centre — 6.00 p.m.
- LECTURE**
- * Lecture entitled "The Strategic Importance of Some Microfossils for the Middle Triassic in Jordan" by Dr. Walid Sababha at the Centre Institute — 7.00 p.m.

Correction

Due to technical error the final statement issued by a seminar which concluded in Amman Sunday and was carried by the Jordan Times Monday's issue had some discrepancies and following is the correct version of the statement:

The undersigned Arab and American participants in the May 5-6 seminar on U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum, after covering a range of political and security issues reached consensus on a number of issues:

1. We urge that the U.N. Security Council, with the immediate and strong support of its permanent members, convene a comprehensive Middle East peace conference to be attended by the five great powers and all parties concerned to achieve just and lasting peace, and to resolve the conflicts now in the Middle East.
2. We call the attention of all countries in the world to the dangers to the Middle East peace process created by the failure of so many of them to accept substantial members of Soviet Jewish emigrants thereby forcing the great majority of them to settle in Israel to the exclusion of other nations.
3. Finding this seminar to be a constructive and broadening process, the participants request that an ongoing dialogue be developed by the Arab Thought Forum, so that generic and specific issues of conflict resolution in the Middle East can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

Under the patronage of
HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR AL HUSSEIN
 The Charitable Jordanian Society for Cardiothoracic Diseases holds its 3rd annual

HEART DAY RACE

which benefits poor patients suffering from lung and heart diseases.

The race starts from the Plaza Hotel at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 11th of May 1990 to the University of Jordan Stadium.

Your joining is highly appreciated

Centre for registration:

- Sport Center, University of Jordan, tel. 843555 ext. 3175
- Al Sufara Bakery, Al Sweifiah
- Pharmacy "A Musheeh", Jabal Al Hussein
- Firas Pharmacy, Jabal Al Hussein
- Rawand Pharmacy, Shmeisani
- United Kingdom University Graduates (UKAS), Jabal Al Weibdeh.

For further information please contact the society Centre
 Tel. 832820, 818017, 843555 ext. 3175, 845845 ext. 2853

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National Charter and constitutional hurdle

THE Royal Commission entrusted with the mandate to draft the proposed National Charter encountered the first major hurdle when it deliberated over the issue of the legal standing of the charter. While some members of the commission argued that this issue does not fall within the purview of the commission's mandate, others argued otherwise. Technically, the mandate given to the Royal Commission did not go as far as submitting the juridical aspects of the charter to the attention of the commission. Substantively speaking, however, there is no sensible way for the members of the group in debate the contents of the charter without knowing in advance the legal import of such contents. The course of the deliberations over the proposed document would surely be determined by the constitutional and legal implications of the charter.

Understandably, all those members who spoke against injecting the legal dimension of the proposal into the debate lack legal sophistication. To draft the document without determining beforehand its legal significance would indeed be like putting the cart before the horse. Any view to the contrary would simply substantiate persistent fears that the professional qualifications of some members of the Royal Commission are lacking.

The right thing to do now is to have the legal committee of the Royal Commission examine this issue from all its angles and submit in due course its findings to the entire membership of the commission for adoption. Since the commission is considering what is essentially a legally binding document, the non-legal minded members of the commission would be well advised to give the recommendations of the legal committee full faith and credit. It is unfortunate that this particular subject was not discussed beforehand by the promoters of the idea of the charter. By brushing it aside till this late hour they only have complicated the debate over the whole issue. But better late than never. The legal vacuum created by such suspension of the consideration of the legal dimension of the charter thus needs rectification and now is the time to do it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Monday commented on the prospects of an Arab summit meeting which they said was of urgent need to help the Arabs plan for action in the immediate future.

Al Ra'i daily said that the summit will be the first real step towards putting an end to conspiracies hatched by the enemies of the nation and an end to enemy plans to impose hegemony on the Arab World. With the convening of the summit, the Arabs will prove to the world that they can rise to the occasion and can protect their national interests and attain the aspired peace, the paper noted. By convening a summit, the Arabs will show their real awareness of the serious challenges their nation is now facing and the dimension of danger inherent in the enemy plans and conspiracies, the paper continued. The Jewish immigration to Palestine, the hostile media campaign against Iraq and the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine should come to an end through a peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that justice cannot be confined to certain nations alone, and should encompass the Arab region and benefit the Palestinians who have been struggling for freedom.

A columnist in Al Ra'i says that the dangers posed to the Arab Nation make it incumbent on Iraq and Syria to reconcile and work together, starting from an Arab summit which is to be held in Baghdad shortly. Tareq Masarweh notes that both Iraq and Syria have sustained damage to their own interests as a result of Turkey's water strategy and in matters related to oil. It is high time for Baghdad and Damascus to realise that their national interests are in real jeopardy now in view of the continued Israeli expansionist policies and the Jewish immigration into Palestine, the writer notes. He says that Arab leaders ought to realise that Israel is striving to expand its occupied territory to include all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, three quarters of Iraq, one third of Saudi Arabia and all of Syria in order to ensure oil and water resources for its expanding and ever growing population. In view of these grave dangers the Baghdad summit ought to be convened and the mediations of King Hussein and Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz to end differences between Baghdad and Damascus should by all means succeed if the Arabs are bent on protecting their existence and national interests, the writer concludes.

Al Dustour daily also tackled the prospect of an Arab summit under the present circumstances and in a bid to lend real help to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The paper echoed earlier editorials that the dangers are immense and the challenges posed by Israel and its allies are very serious, requiring concerted Arab efforts and pooling of resources. The paper noted that the Jordanian leadership has been spearheading efforts towards convening a summit and bringing about reconciliation between Syria and Iraq to pave the way for a successful meeting. The current contacts between the capitals of the Arab World reflect the Arab leaders' realisation of the seriousness of the situation and demonstrate the intentions of Saudi Arabia and Jordan to rally the Arabs in the face of the common challenges, the paper said. It added that the coming summit is deemed essential to deal with the pressing issues and to chart joint action.

New Europe and future relation with the U.S.

By Dr. Radwan Al Abdullah and
Dr. Mohammad Kheir Mustafa

IT IS self-evident that pooling of resources at the level of the European Continent and benefiting from the old economic idea of economies of scale will generate a giant economic superpower probably unparalleled in history. For Western Europe there are now two incentives to promote and eventually to establish the "Common European Home." First, the opening up of the Eastern European market to Western goods and services, benefiting from proximity and the privilege the notion of the "Common European Home" would provide. This is purely an economic raison d'être which indeed might prove the strongest of incentives considering that winning or losing an election in Western Europe depends very much on economic performance.

The second incentive for the formation of the "Common European Home" is political. It is well established that the dividing line between East and West Europe is not geographical but

rather political. Different political and ideological systems accompanied growing mistrust and a constant fear of military threat. Both the NATO alliance and Warsaw Pact have institutionalised that fear. Now with Communist parties losing their grip on power in Eastern Europe and demonstrators carrying banners advocating freedom, democracy, pluralism and more importantly backing the free-market system have changed the whole scene and altered the basic assumptions that have existed since the World War II. The dividing line is now melting away and the exclusion of Eastern Europe on political grounds from "Europe" (i.e. Western) is losing its raison d'être.

There is also evidently growing public pressure on the Western side for closer European cooperation and an emphasis on the "European Character." That was clearly the lesson the Conservative Party in Britain had learned after it lost its majority seats at

the last European parliamentary elections (1989) to the Labour Party which advocated stronger European cooperation, and which also succeeded in portraying the Conservative Party as an unequipped party for European unity. The people's expression on the Eastern side of their willingness for closer European cooperation has been more dramatic with cutting fences, digging "loopholes" and the overthrowing of governments.

To be sure the idea of cooperation between East and West is not a new idea. One only needs to recall the era of détente during the early and mid 1970s and the notion of "peaceful coexistence" to prove that. However, what we are witnessing today differs fundamentally in two respects: First, both détente and peaceful coexistence were instruments for managing conflict by maintaining the existing dividing line. Now the whole purpose of cooperation between Western and Eastern Europe is, in contrast, to abolish that line.

Second, détente and peaceful co-existence were advocated be-

tween two different political systems: "capitalist" (the West) and "non-capitalist" (the East), or depending on ideology: Communist or non-Communist.

With the disappearance of the main obstacles for cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe, namely political and ideological differences, it is commonsensical to suggest that the other hindrances for the formation of the European Home will easily be overcome. The first hindrance which comes to mind is that of the difference in industrial development between Western and Eastern Europe. However, a quick glance at the performance of the EC members and that of Eastern European countries does suggest that the economic hindrance is not as formidable as it may seem. For instance East Germany's economy is more advanced than those of Portugal, Greece and even Spain. The Soviet Union, if it were to divert part of its military expenditure and that is assuming what it is doing, could become a powerful economic power of its own. Ireland's economy, which is essen-

tially a farming one, is not that superior to many Eastern European countries. Accommodating other Eastern European countries, thus, is not an impossible task.

To talk about a new European region does not require at all a central government for the whole region. Indeed, far from it. Events in Eastern Europe and in particular the revival of nationalism in the Soviet Union clearly reveal that the general trend is for decentralisation of government rather than the reverse. The whole idea of a region is essentially based on defining borders for that region (political as well as geographical) in contrast to the outside world. In other words, it is a matter of asking the question: which country is entitled for membership to this newly formed European club and which is not. No matter how a European region is defined, both the United States and Japan stand aloof from it. That must be what was on Italian Foreign Minister Giamani De Michelis' mind, when he stated that Western Europe has been a pillar of attraction to

Eastern Europe in a way the U.S. and Japan couldn't have been.

This is very significant since U.S. relations with Europe would be governed more clearly than ever by this European criterion. The U.S. special position in Europe has so far been maintained in Western Europe for security reasons. Now, with all the changes in the international climate Europe's need for U.S. protection and extended deterrence would no longer hold. The U.S., as a result, would become more of a competing economic power and less of a security guarantor. This is indeed a very grim reading to U.S. policy-makers. Despite the obvious triumph in the U.S. concerning the changes taking place in Europe, it may prove that they were not the blessings the U.S. policy-makers had hoped for.

Doctors Mustafa and Al Abdullah are both assistant professors of political science at the University of Jordan. Dr. Al Abdullah chairs the university's political science department.

Austria: Europe's 'fifth wheel'?

The debate on joining the European Community has been going on in Austria for several years now. The idea has its ardent supporters, sympathetic neutrals and opposition. Hannes Hofbauer, Austrian journalist and deputy editor-in-chief of MOZ magazine, explores the issue.

Franz H. is a farmer living in Lembach, a community located in the wooded area near the border with Czechoslovakia. Life here is not easy with usually severe weather conditions, scarce fodder, and late modest harvests.

Franz sells milk to a local cooperative at a price maintained at its present level by state subsidies. But for these subsidies, peasants in the peripheral provinces would hardly be able to make both ends meet. The idea of tough competition from the owners of gigantic modern agricultural farms in the Netherlands and northern West Germany, where automatic milking machines can take care of over 1,000 cows, is terrifying to the local farmers. This competition is also feared by the more prosperous villagers from Austria's low-land. "If Austria joins the EC, we'll go under," says Franz H., "and will have to leave... Hitler in his time wanted to drive all district-dwellers out of here and set up a game preserve for bear hunting. What did not happen then will inevitably happen now if Austria becomes a member of the European Community." Franz H. has no more time for idle talk. He gets onto his tractor and together with his old father, heads off to the forest to fell trees.

Take another Austrian, owner of a confectionery works in Vienna, employing some 80 people. He doesn't like talking "politics" but yielding to pressure, lets out: "Austria's full membership in the EC is our only hope. Only if Austria joins the EC shall I have no problem exporting my produce to West Germany and Spain even when the all-European market is created." More than half of all confectioneries produced here are exported to EC members. One of the advantages, according to the owner of the small chocolate producing works, who insisted on anonymity, is cheap labour from Hungary and Yugoslavia which is soon to be augmented by workers from Czechoslovakia. The people he employs at his works often have no official registration. That's routine practice in Vienna, he says, for anyone interested in cheap unskilled labour. "Judge for yourself," he says, "I pay them 60 schillings per hour for wrapping up the products and they are absolutely happy." The employer also need not pay insurance for such employees and saves on other expenses as well. Moreover, he pays less in taxes. "With products produced so cheaply, you don't have to fear competition anywhere in the European community." The euphoria may well disappear if Austria does not succeed to jump on the bandwagon bound for a single European market.

Unanswered letter

"Taking part in the all-European integration process is of critical importance for Austria," states the working agreement of Austria's coalition government. Since the fall of 1986 it has tried to tackle the issue of the political future of this small republic. In the middle of 1989 the federal government made up of representatives of two major political parties - the Socialist Party of Austria and Austrian People's Party - sent Foreign Minister

Alois Mock to Brussels to announce Austria's intent to join the Community. The statement he made was the result of lengthy and controversial debate.

There has been no answer since Austria seems to still be considered a "fifth wheel" to the cart. Figuring out the arguments for such a decision is easy. The powerful wind of strong international competition is to drive the more dynamic Austrian companies and enterprises towards a more efficient economy. Jan Stankovsky, an expert in economics, sounds more restrained in his judgement: "The reason why Austria should become part of the all-European market is a desire to eschew the negative consequences of not being officially part of it." The concept of the Europe of 1992 may indeed turn it into a fortress whereby anyone who was not in due time made its "Euroknight" will be discriminated against.

But on the other end of the scale Austria faces a direct threat from sweeping integration within the EC. The strong wind of international competition may well turn into a gale storm, that will wipe out smallholders and artisans, and might cause not a little trouble for pensioners and workers now employed in rather protected industries.

"In the EC it's an early bird that catches the worm," said Austrian Minister of Economy Wolfgang Schüssel. What if you just have not had the luck to make it big? I asked him. "Sorry, but in the economy, as in life itself, there is not only success but failure too." And it is for the "weaklings"-older people for example, who have enough hardships as it is - that Austria's membership in the Economic Community bodes no good. The prospect is catastrophic for them, because of the current pace of integration.

In Austria today one hears quite an array of opinions about its role in the all-European market. Politicians have been rapidly changing their assessment, during the past five years, though no one so far thought of speaking about perestroika in Austria. Traditionally, the most ardent and steadfast supporters of Austria's membership in the EC have been members the Industrialists Association and the small liberal Freedom Party of Austria which unites under its banner both old hard-liners and "supplies."

The Socialist Party of Austria and Austrian People's Party already at the end of 1987 ruled out the possibility of Austria's full membership in the EC for political reasons, i.e. because of the country's neutrality. They proposed concluding an agreement on associate membership. But their orientation has since altered radically, and for the last year and a half only one motto has been heard loudly and clearly, "Membership" or death.

"We should hook on to the EC," says the Socialist Party's General Secretary Josef Cap. "and becoming part of it take up the fight, otherwise we will loose touch with the international market."

The Socialist Party today is basically a radical force bent upon integration, which wants to

step out of the shadow of the workers' party and seek support from its potential voters. These are the so-called new middle class - clerks and managers, engineers, and artists, whose chief common feature is their "European" mentality and a desire to shed the status of a small provincial state.

In the conservative People's Party the industrialists have won a landslide, whereas peasants and artisans are still entangled in a desperate but hopeless struggle for a major say in the party.

Yet together with supporters of the idea of membership in the EC, Austria has a few opponents who view this move in somewhat less rosy colours. They warn against joining a community dominated by the F.R.G. "Twice during this century the Vienna-Berlin axis has brought sorrow upon the heads of our compatriots," they say. It was no trivial matter when back in 1955 Austria announced its intent to remain neutral and for all.

Erwin Lanc, a member of the Board of the Socialist Party and former foreign minister of Austria, makes his message clear: "The European Community plans to become something more than just an integrated economic union. The European Single Act embodies - quite unambiguously - a striving for a common military and foreign policy. How then, can a neutral Austria be part of such a union?" Together with some of his associates, Erwin Lanc initiated the movement "Austria and Europe", which emphasises the incompatibility of the country's neutral status with its membership in the European Community.

The "Greens" who have 8 seats in national parliament, are also against EC membership. They are afraid to see Austria turn into

one of Europe's backyards, and these fears are shared by many Austrian peasants who feel that their future is jeopardised. Without state subsidies and state regulation of small business - both of which will be swept away in the process of integration - dozens of thousands of small holdings and enterprises will crumble in the face of strong competition from outside.

Landowners and agricultural experts from the western lands of the Tyrol and Salzburg have quite different reasons for scepticism. In these areas transit traffic from Bavaria to northern Italy may, with the creation of a single European market, take on such proportions that the Alpine valleys will be faced with an ecological catastrophe. The woods lining the main motorways running across the Alps are already being destroyed and people are driven from their homes. Recent elections to the Landtag in the Tyrol showed that almost 10 per cent of local dwellers demonstrated their traditional outlook by backing the "Greens"

Austria's request for membership in the EC, which can be considered no sooner than 1993 when the creation of a single European market including 12 EC member states is complete, has one important condition: Austria is to remain neutral. Austria declared its neutrality in 1955 and soon signed an agreement with the four powers - winners of the Second World War. The country immediately joined the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and finally in 1972 it was drawn into the European Community with the signing of a series of agreements between the EFTA and EC, even though it is officially not a member of the community.

The creation of a single European market by the end of 1992, as envisaged in the European Single Act, will present an entirely different situation. Participation in this market will be allowed only for full members of the Community. Joining the EC then will be a bit problematic for neutral Austria if only because the EC, as stated in the Act, seeks to form a defensive union and a single security mechanism.

The Act speaks of a more coordinated and close cooperation of the European countries in matters of European tribute to a single foreign policy for all members of the Community. Voting in the EC, is supposed to be by majority, which makes it impossible for Austria to avoid being engulfed in a war - should it break out - even though it chooses to vote against it. This consideration made the federal government mention in its report to the National Council (parliament) that Austria cannot possibly take part in trying to transfer the future integrated Community into a defensive union. That said, there are other problems posed in the area of international trade. A neutral Austria could not join trade embargos imposed by the EC, like the one on trade with Argentina at the time of the war over the Falkland Islands.

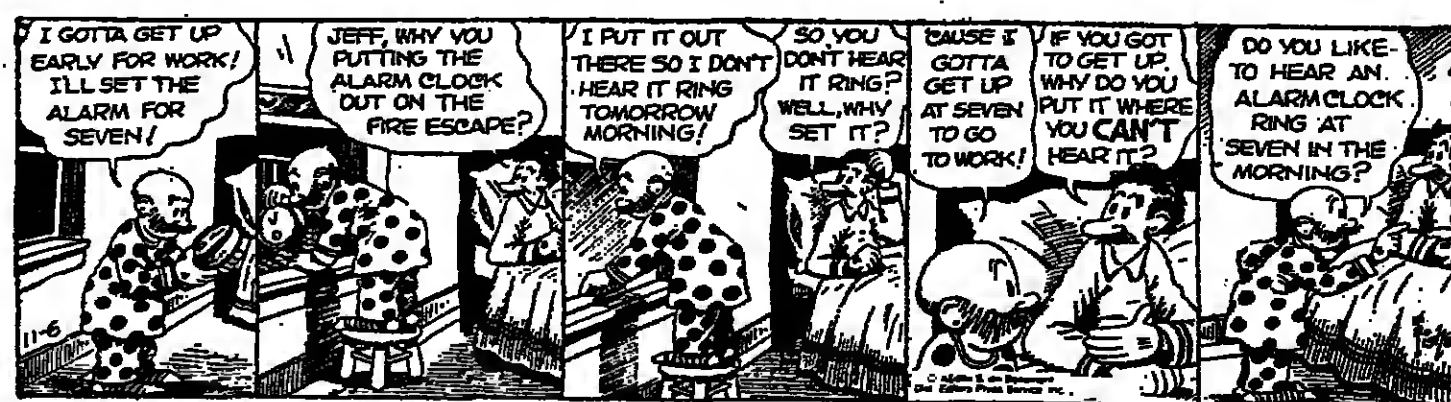
Maria Berger, chief expert on issues of integration in the office of the federal chancellor, spoke of some other delicate problems Austria's neutrality will cause in the near future. There is no provision for Austria's right to provide itself with all the necessary supplies in times of crisis, yet this right is envisaged in the country's state defence plan. A centralised system of quotas on energy supply for each country within the EC ties the hands not only of sepa-

rate enterprises but of entire countries in matters of provision. Moreover, according to the Treaty of Rome, Austria would not be able to prevent or protest, the transport of military cargo across its territory. Of the EC's 12 member-states, 11 are members of the NATO alliance. This also is a source of considerable worry for Austria.

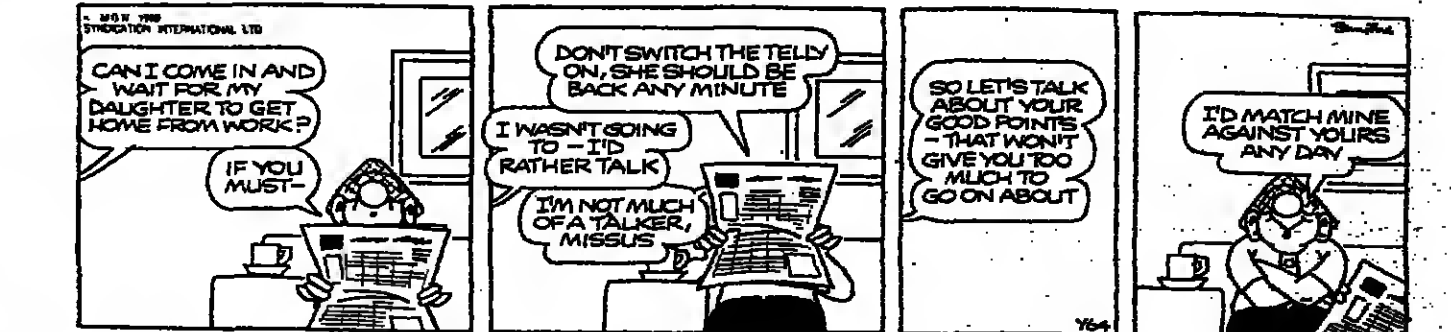
All things considered, Austria has no choice, either politically or economically. On the one hand, as a neutral state it can not join military alliances or make itself dependent on them; on the other, this country with a population of 7 million is completely tied to the EC economically. The Community accounts for 60 per cent of Austria's exports and 67 per cent of its imports. Not a very powerful country economically, Austria has a trade deficit and the total worth of its GNP is notably lower than that of the EC members. Goods imported from West technologically-intensive products while the bulk of Austrian exports are made up of semifinished items.

In a word, Austria's perspective is somewhat gloomy as membership in the EC will mean the country's transition into a peripheral state in the heart of Europe. It is hard to predict today how its position will be affected by the common policy of the EC towards Eastern Europe. The dialogue meant to work out this policy has only just started and concerns a so-called Europe between the EC and the Soviet Union which could with time include Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany. That is, if the Germanies' unification does not hamper this cooperation and a future big Germany does not start expanding eastwards, as it did in 1941 and 1939.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



الصحف الأردنية المستقلة التي تصدرها مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية



The new "Dräger Newsuit." The first "rigid" diving suits enabling a diver to move freely underwater were conceived of 200 years ago. This Dräger suit permits a much higher degree of mobility and can be used at very great depths. Photo: INP/Drägerwerk AG.

Freedom while deep-sea diving

LUBECK (INP) — The Dräger works in Lübeck now manufactures a pressurized diving suit that permits full mobility at depths of up to 300 metres. According to a spokesman from the German company, the light-weight suit allows ample freedom of movement since water pressure weighs on the suit rather than on the diver's body.

Expensive gas mixes for deep-sea diving are no longer needed for the "Dräger Newsuit." A dive lasting twelve hours and going down to a depth of 300 metres used to require a crew of eighteen. Now only three people are needed. Depending on the depth of the dive, the diver also used to have to spend several weeks "being brought back up" in a pressure chamber. The new pressurized suit can be readied for a deep-sea dive within a few hours. All of the equipment can be stored in a container and, if necessary, transported by plane or helicopter.

This has all been made possible as a result of the use of a new technology in the swivelling joint segments of the suit. The diver retains a 75 per cent ability to move freely, even under the most extreme pressure. Especially the arms have an almost unrestricted radius of movement. In the case of conventional "rigid" diving suits, freedom of movement decreases with increasing pressure. The "Dräger Newsuit" is used mainly in the exploitation of offshore energy resources such as gas and oil as well as in underwater research. It can also be used for search and rescue operations in deep water.

No plan to shift summit

(Continued from page 1)

In Riyadh, Saudi Information Minister Ali Al-Sagoff quoted King Fahd as saying the kingdom would "continue seeking efforts towards bridging the rift... and unifying Muslim and Arab ranks," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

He said the monarch's remarks were made during a cabinet session to discuss the Arab tour by Crown Prince Abdullah.

The foreign policy of Saudi Arabia is based on clear and standing principles that do not change," King Fahd said. "It will not take any decision dealing with the Arab Nations' causes without consultations with the brotherly leaders and under the umbrella of the Arab League and its relevant rules."

Saudi Arabia said earlier Monday it favours a full Arab summit conference but that such a meeting should be agreed unanimously by Arab states.

SPA quoted an official source as saying the kingdom was proposing a mini-summit.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no such proposal... it supports Arab unanimity towards convening an Arab summit called for by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein," it said.

In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz insisted that the summit would be held in Baghdad despite Syrian opposition.

"There are no contacts to change the venue... since it has been agreed that it will be held in Baghdad," Aziz told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport.

Aziz, who is both foreign minister and deputy prime minister, said the

summit would deal with threats to Arab security, an apparent reference to Soviet Jews emigrating to the Israeli-occupied territories, and to recent Western criticism of Iraqi policies.

Earlier, Iraqi media said Saudi Arabia will attend the summit. Baghdad TV broke into a late-night movie to make the announcement following lengthy talks between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Prince Abdullah that ended after midnight.

The Iraqi TV said that President Hussein and Abdullah, who flew to Baghdad from Damascus Sunday, agreed "on the necessity of holding the Arab Summit in Baghdad" and that they should cooperate "to lead the summit to success."

The Iraqi News Agency report said: "Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah and President Saddam Hussein have agreed on the significance of convening the Arab summit conference in Baghdad and to coordinate efforts in such a way that will lead to its success."

In Baghdad, Arafat criticised some Arab leaders.

"I have been touring Arab countries over the past two months to get support for an Arab summit conference... and until now I got no response for its time, agenda etc," Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader was speaking at the opening of an Arab conference in solidarity with Iraq in its current war of words with the United States, Britain and Israel.

"Some (Arab leaders) are even suggesting we postpone the Arab summit (until)... after the Bush-Gorbachev summit at the end of this month," Arafat said.

Women seek to counter ban

(Continued from page 1)

union were also prompt in reacting to the ban. Some of them formed a delegation and went to the Ministry of Interior Monday to try to see Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh "for a clarification."

"We were unable to see anyone and we did not receive a copy of the decision," said a male owner of a beauty salon who is also executive member of the association.

Out of seven salons contacted by the Jordan Times, the majority felt that the ban will not be implemented or enacted as law.

One Jordanian hairdresser said: "The decision is bad for the government because now

they collect taxes from us and get money for work permits for foreigners who work here." If the decision is implemented, he and others "would have to go to their clients' homes to do their hair, as they do in Saudi Arabia."

"It would be good for us in a way," he said. "We will not pay taxes or pay the salon owner any money."

Ministry of Interior officials refused to comment on the decision but one official confirmed that the report about the ban was correct. There is, however, some ambiguity about the extent of the move: Whether it only applies to new applicants for licence or all hairdressers in the Kingdom.

Fear, madness, death mingled in Saigon's final days

By George Esper
The Associated Press

THE COLONEL had a crazed look in his eyes, despair in his voice, facing a calamity that on this final day would bring to an end a century of western influence in Vietnam.

A beaten man, he stood at a South Vietnamese war memorial in Lam Son Square in Saigon. In happier times, it was a place where revelers had exploded firecrackers in joyous celebrations.

But on this Wednesday morning, April 30, 1975, the colonel and thousands like him had been told in a broadcast by the Saigon government to stack their weapons in surrender to the feared Communist North Vietnamese.

I stood there with him, face to face, trying to sort out what was going on.

The colonel frantically waved his arms.

"Fini, fini," he shouted. His right hand moved to his holster pistol. Would he be taken aim at me, a symbol of the American allies he might have felt abandoned him and his countrymen in these final days?

The colonel saluted the statue, raised the pistol to his head and fired. He fell dead at my feet. His war was over.

There was fear, panic and humiliation among the South Vietnamese troops pouring into Saigon from their outposts and garrisons to lay down their weapons and those trying to flee the country with their American allies.

On the day of Saigon's fall 15 years ago I walked through city streets littered with boots and olive green uniforms discarded by South Vietnamese soldiers who were trapped and faced the wrath of the Communists. They had changed into civilian clothes in efforts to hide their military service for fear of reprisals.

The "Pentagon East," the ooze-busting U.S. military headquarters inside Tan Son Nhut air base, lay gutted by grenades, destroyed by the Americans themselves.

North Vietnamese soldiers in loose-fitting uniforms and pith helmets stood guard at positions once manned by crew-cut, spit-and-polish American Marines.

I watched soldiers raise the red, blue and yellow flag of the National Liberation Front — the Viet Cong — over the presidential palace.

In the final days, scores of Vietnamese friends, journalism colleagues, army officers and politicians had lined up outside the AP bureau asking me to intercede with the U.S. embassy to get them out of the country.

Some followed me around, slept outside my apartment, not letting me out of their sight, thinking that if I left they somehow would escape with me.

Left behind in the hysteria of the disorganised evacuation were more than 400 friends and allies of the United States, including Vietnamese U.S. embassy employees and their families. They had been promised safe passage out of the country.

At the AP bureau, the incoming teletype from New York

headquarters clicked off a message from Wes Gallagher, then the president and general manager of the AP. He advised there might be one more helicopter.

"Any of you want to leave if it works out?" he asked.

"Gallagher: Thanks for your offer," I replied. "We want to stay."

Only minutes earlier, the last American helicopter had left with the last of 800 U.S. Marine reinforcements who had provided security for the evacuation. Its flight ended the evacuation of 1,000 Americans and 6,000 Vietnamese, including many of the top military commanders thought to be marked for death because of their association with the United States.

A rear guard of 11 U.S. Marines scrambled to the sixth floor of the embassy, then to the rooftop landing pad to await the final helicopter. A crowd of Vietnamese, panicked by rumours of a Communist bloodbath that never materialised, followed, desperately seeking a way out of the country.

The Marines tossed teargas into the stairwells to feed them off. Suddenly, off in the sunrise they spotted the CH-46 helicopter for which they had been anxiously waiting.

The happy Marines fired a red smoke grenade to guide it to the landing pad. North Vietnamese forces ringing the city withheld their fire, fearing retaliation by American bombers flying cover for the evacuation. The Marines jumped aboard and the helicopter whirled out of sight over the South China Sea to an aircraft

carrier.

They were the last American military men to leave. At 7:57 a.m., just like that, 30 years of American involvement ended so suddenly that even the North Vietnamese seemed surprised.

Most U.S. military forces had left Vietnam two years earlier, under terms of the Paris peace agreement. But 50 American military attaches and 1,200 civilians remained at the defence attaché's headquarters, which had replaced the U.S. military command in the Pentagon East. An additional 150 U.S. Marine guards remained at the embassy.

The final evacuation was hastened by a heavy artillery attack, a signal by the North Vietnamese that they wanted the Americans out of the country immediately. Tuesday, April 29, dawned with a three-hour rain of rockets and artillery shells onto Tan Son Nhut air base.

Two recently arrived Marines, Charlie McMahon, 21, and Darwin Judge, 19, were on their watch at the U.S. defence attaché's headquarters on the base. McMahon had been home on leave less than two weeks earlier. "I'll be back," he told his father as he left for Vietnam.

Instead Charlie McMahon and Darwin Judge were struck down at random by an imprecise North Vietnamese rocket in the final hours of shooting. They were the last two Americans killed in Vietnam.

During the evacuations, helicopters swarmed over Saigon, landing on the rooftop pad at the embassy and at Tan Son Nhut air

base itself.

Hundreds of South Vietnamese soldiers converged on the base, seeking an escape route by air. South Vietnamese guards, angry that the Americans were pulling out without them, fired their rifles into the air over buses carrying the evacuees to board the helicopters.

"We want to go, too," they shouted.

Hundreds of Vietnamese tried to push their way through a chain-link fence gate in the centre of the four-metre high wall surrounding the U.S. embassy compound.

Vietnamese men and women tried to claw their way over the wall. In danger of losing control of the situation and being overwhelmed by the crowd, frantic battle-hardened marines and civilians beat them back with pistol and rifle butts, feet and fists. They pulled westerners who couldn't break through the mob over the wall by their collars.

Mothers held their children above the crowd, begging the Americans inside to take them with them.

The evacuation ended at 4:20 a.m. The next morning, April 30, twenty-five minutes later, U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin left carrying the American flag. Another group of officers departed less than an hour later. Then the Marine rear guard left minutes before 8 a.m., closing the doors to Vietnam.

Now, all ties were severed and an eerie quiet fell across the capital as a 3½ million Saigonese anxiously awaited the triumphant

march of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong into the city. At noon, the conquering troops rolled down unity boulevard in tanks and trucks to claim the presidential palace.

At some point, to my surprise, two North Vietnamese soldiers who looked no older than 20 casually strolled into the AP office. They made no threats or demands. To me, they seemed like curious country boys who were awed by the big city.

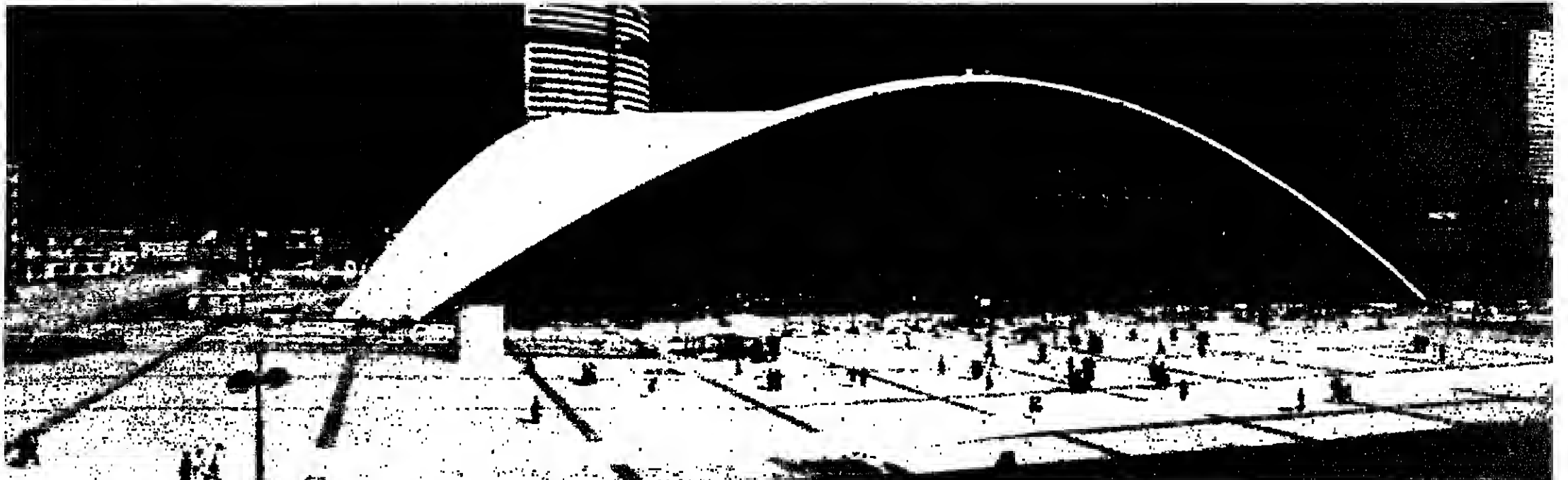
We offered them cokes and some stale poundcake, the only food and drink we had left in the office. We took out a map and they showed us the invasion routes their forces had taken on their advance to Saigon.

They talked about their homes in the North and how much they missed their families. They showed us photos they had carried through the jungles and monsoons for months.

For 10 years I had been writing about the North Vietnamese — 50 killed, 100 killed — cold statistics in battlefield reports. I had seen them in death, their bodies stacked across the killing fields. I had seen them in prison of war camps and in delegations that came to Saigon for peace talks.

Now they were standing in front of my eyes. I thought to myself, "they're the same as the South Vietnamese. They have the same feelings, the same fears, the loneliness for families. For nearly two decades they've been killing each other and taking so many Americans with them."

For them, and for me, the war was finally over.



The business district of "La Défense," begun in the western suburbs of Paris in 1956, is nearly finished. One of the first buildings to be erected there, has been totally renovated. The CNIT re-opened in September 1989. Together with its new installations, it now forms the heart of this district devoted to international business.

A new international business centre for Paris

By Oliver Lord

IN 1956, the public authorities decided to give Paris an ultra-modern business district. The site chosen, which covers 700 hectares, was at "La Défense," a few minutes away from the capital. The forty or so tower-blocks of offices, together with blocks of flats, shopping centres, public facilities and parks are built around a central esplanade 40 hectares in area.

Le Défense is the foremost business district in Europe. It lies in the near western suburbs of the French capital. The 6,000 firms which have their offices there, employ more than

100,000 people and have a turnover of 900 billion francs. Moreover, these companies include 13 of the 50 major firms in the world (General Motors, Exxon, IBM, Bayer, B.P., Hitachi, Nestlé, Unilever, etc.) and 14 of the top 20 French firms (EDF, ELF, COE, Total, Saint-Gobain, etc.).

Today, Le Défense is nearly finished. In July 1989, the white marble "Great Arch," designed by the Danish architect Von Spreckelsen, a superb architectural feat rising up along the Champs Elysées axis, was inaugurated.

Also in 1989, one of the very first buildings erected at La

Défense, the National Centre of Industries and Techniques (CNIT), constructed from May 1956 to September 1958 following plans designed by the French architects Camelot, Mailly and Zehruss, was also re-opened, after being completely transformed at a cost of 2 billion francs. This spectacular building in the form of an equilateral triangular-shaped groined vault with 818 metre long sides, nearly 50 metres high, is only supported in three points.

The CNIT was originally used for exhibitions and trade fairs. It has been thoroughly renovated by the Sani Ing-

énierie company and today forms a centre for communication and exchanges which is unique in the world. It is now organised around three areas:

The INFOMART area, is the top European market in the new technologies of information and communication. In an area of 22,000 m², it offers a permanent shop-window for more than 220 firms (producers, distributors, and training associations, institutions or organisations), specialised in data-processing, telecommunications, office automation and organisation.

The IT COM area, groups together 45 firms specialised in

communications techniques and technologies, a marketing centre, an audio, video and television production and post-production centre, a training unit and a press centre, in an area of 4,000 square metres.

And, lastly, the World Trade Centre, created together with the Paris Chamber of Trade and Industry and affiliated to a world network consisting of 190 similar centres, is devoted to international exchanges and trade. Its 20,000 m² receive all the pateros involved in the import-export chain: operators, public agents in foreign trade, service companies, industrial and commercial

firms concerned by international exchanges, and representatives of foreign countries.

These facilities are complemented by a conference and exhibition centre, a top-level training area run by the ESSEC group, a Europe circle designed for relaxation and leisure.

The new CNIT employs 1,500 people and its turnover is forecast as being 500 million francs. More than 3,000,000 visitors are expected every year beneath the vault of this new international business centre whose floor has now been paved with a beautiful marble mixed with granite — L'Actualité en France.

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Gardner triumphs in Spanish Grand Prix

PEREZ, Spain (R) — Australia's Wayne Gardner launched a furious attack on Wayne Rainey of the U.S. to win the 500cc Spanish motorcycle Grand Prix Sunday.

Gardner seized the lead from Rainey on the 19th lap of the 28-lap race and forged ahead to win by seven seconds and move into second place behind the American in the world championship standings.

Rainey plotted his Yamaha into an early lead in the 122,322-km race, with 1987 world champion Gardner and American Kevin Schwantz in pursuit.

Gardner, chasing hard on his Honda, narrowed the advantage and cut inside Rainey on a sharp curve to take the lead.

The Australian stretched away, with Rainey apparently unwilling to take risks.

Gardner clinched his 16th grand prix victory in 52 minutes 38.021 seconds at an average speed of 138.564 KPH, with Rainey second and Schwantz third on his Suzuki. Australian Michael Doohan, who started in pole position, was fourth.

"It's a nice feeling to be back," said Gardner, whose confidence had taken a blow after spills at last month's U.S. Grand Prix in Laguna Seca and practice in Jerez.

"It looked at times as if things weren't going to work," Rainey, still 20 points clear in the world championship standings, was unruffled by defeat.

I had my mind made up to just ride my own race, he said, denying he had shied from taking risks. "Wayne just rode better I guess."

Graf struggles fourth but wins title of the year

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Steffi Graf of West Germany rallied after dropping the first set to beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 5-7, 6-0, 6-1, Sunday, winning the \$350,000 Citizen Cup for her fourth straight tournament victory.

Graf, the top-ranked player in the world, needed more than two hours in hot weather and on slow red clay to fight off a stiff challenge from the French Open champion, ranked fourth in the world.

"I didn't expect Arantxa to play as well as she did," Graf said. "She didn't miss a ball in the first three games. But I played more intelligently after the first set and everything went right. I played much better."

The German teenager seemed to be playing below her normal level in the opening set. After losing her first two service games of the match, twice she was a point away from trailing 0-4. But both times she forced Sanchez-Vicario into an error to win the point.

Graf appeared to settle at that point, breaking Sanchez-Vicario's and holding to get withing 2-3. But Graf's forehand was erratic and Sanchez-Vicario broke back and then held to lead 5-2.

Then it was Sanchez-Vicario's turn to commit errors, double-faulting to give Graf break point, which Graf won with a powerful smash.

Sanchez-Vicario again lost serve, double-faulting to even the set at 5-5. But Graf, still struggling with her forehand, dropped her serve in the 11th game and then the set.

The match completely changed in the second set, however, as Graf suddenly found her range

and Sanchez-Vicario found she could not longer chase every ball.

Graf won the set 3-0 in 34 minutes but was still pushed to reduce in five of the six games.

But Graf again dropped her serve at the start of the final set to give Sanchez-Vicario hope.

However, Graf immediately broke back and did not lose another game.

The victory was Graf's fourth title of the year and moves her back into first place in the tour points standings.

"I had many chances but I didn't have the luck," said Sanchez-Vicario, who eliminated Martina Navratilova in the semifinals. "She played so much better in the third set but I'm happy because I had a good tournament and I played very well."

"I've worked very hard and my game has improved a lot. Now I need to work some more to get to no. 1."

In other games, unseeded Kelly Jones of the United States outlasted seventh-seeded Richard Fromberg of Australia in a third-set tiebreaker 7-4 Sunday, successfully defending his Epson Singapore super tennis championship.

The 26-year-old from San Diego took 2 1/2 hours to defeat Fromberg, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, and became the first player to win consecutive titles at the \$250,000 Singapore tournament.

After splitting the opening sets, Jones took an early advantage in the third, winning the opening game off Fromberg's service. Both players held service until Jones, leading 5-4 and serving for the match, lost the 10th game without winning a point.

Fromberg took a 6-5 lead with his ninth ace of the match. But Jones held serve and the two matched each other in the tiebreaker 4-4 on long baseline rallies until Fromberg's volleys fell wide.

Fromberg started with two aces in the opening game of the match, but Jones broke the 20-year-old Australian in the fifth game. Jones held serve the remainder of the set, including an ace in the 10th game before wrapping up the set.

Fromberg rallied in the second set against a visibly tired Jones. He broke Jones service in the second game, aced him in the third game, and then broke him again in the eighth.

Third-seeded Australians Mark Kratzmann and Jason Stoltenberg won the doubles title, defeating countrymen Brad Drewett and Todd Woodbridge, 6-1, 6-0.

Capriati overpowers Laskova

ROME (AP) — Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati of the United States looked strong in her European professional debut Monday, overpowering Czechoslovakian Leona Laskova 6-0, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open.

Playing on centre court of the Foro Italico, the no. 12-seeded Capriati needed just 50 minutes to dispatch her overmatched opponent.

After nearly blowing Laskova off the court in the first set, the hard hitting Capriati let the Czechoslovak take a 2-1 lead in the second.

"In the second set, I lost a bit of concentration at the beginning, and she started playing better," Capriati said.

The lapse did not last long. Serving at 1-2, she sharpened up her powerful groundstrokes and resumed hitting winners down the line and cross court from the baseline to win five of the next six games and close out the match.

In another match involving a seeded player, no. 11 Helene Klesi of Canada defeated Australia's Jo-Anne Faull 6-4, 6-1.

Soviet wins four more European gold medals

ATHENS (R) — All-round champion Svetlana Boginskaya of the Soviet Union won four more gold medals in individual exercises Sunday to complete a triumphant performance in the women's European gymnastics championships.

Boginskaya, who said after taking the all-round crown Saturday that she would retire in August because she was too old for the sport at 17, extended her golden successes firstly in the vault, her 1988 Olympic winning apparatus.

On the asymmetric bars, the apparatus on which she had never won a medal, she was relaxed and graceful, sharing first place with up-and-coming team mate Natasia Kalinina and another newcomer, Mirela Pasca of Romania.

After passing her toughest test, Boginskaya then gave two brilliant performances.

On the beam, the 1989 world and European all-round champion produced three immaculate backwards vaults, plus a triple backwards-coding one.

On the floor, Boginskaya performed an improved exercise to complete her quartet of golds. Kalinina, virtually unknown before Saturday when she took the all-round silver medal, scored a superb second place on the beam to prove her worth in the absence of injured Soviet gymnasts Olga Stragova, Natalya Lashchenova and Olesia Doudnik.

The 1989 European asymmetric bars champion Henrietta Onodi of Hungary would have repeated the feat with her swift and difficult exercise but carelessly touched the floor with a foot and dropped to last place.

The petite, tearful Onodi, who missed the all-round silver by a thousandth of a point, overtimed on the beam but saved her day by taking joint third spot on the floor.

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CDU slips in E. German local elections, but stays top party

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's top political party lost support in the nation's first free local elections, and the country's new prime minister said Monday he wants to find out why.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said "a review of party policy will be conducted" to determine why his Christian Democrats had lost support since East Germany's national elections, reported Radio Free Berlin, based in West Berlin.

The Christian Democrats, leaders of East Germany's governing coalition, finished Sunday's elections with about 7 per cent less support than in national elections on March 18.

In the Sunday balloting, East Germans chose a city councilman from West Germany as mayor of Leipzig, East Germany's second-largest city, early projections indicated.

Local issues dominated individual races, so it was unclear if any dissatisfaction with the rush to unite the two Germanys was a factor in the results.

Despite suffering setbacks, De Maiziere's conservative party captured the most local government seats, followed by the left-leaning Social Democrats, according to West German television (ARD) projections.

The reformed Communist Party, now called the Party of Demo-

cratic Socialism, finished a distant third, the projections found.

Heinrich Lehmann-Grube, a city council member from the West German city of Hanover, won his campaign for mayor of Leipzig, television projections indicated.

Lehmann-Grube holds dual East and West German citizenship.

Since he became an East German citizen only last month, he was not allowed to vote in the election. However, anyone who is an East German citizen over the age of 18 can be elected to office.

It was not immediately clear whether Lehmann-Grube would resign from the Hanover City Council.

The parties' performances generally reflected the results of the March national elections, when East Germany's first democratic government was elected.

However, De Maiziere's Christian Democrats took only about 34 per cent of the vote in local races, according to projections by the ARD television network, down from the 41 per cent they gained in March.

The social Democrats were

holding much the same total as in the national elections, and the Christian Democrats' losses appeared to have been distributed among a group of small, specialised parties.

The Social Democrats, however, captured the two largest cities East Berlin and Leipzig, the ARD projections showed.

Sunday's turnout was about 80 per cent, short of the 93 per cent who voted in the March elections.

About 250,000 people from 62 parties ran for more than 20,000 council and municipal posts in 7,784 cities, districts, towns and villages. About 12.4 million East Germans were eligible to vote.

The local balloting effectively gives local communities control of their hometown governments and bureaucracies after four decades of centralised Communist control.

Far-right groups were kept off the ballots and foreigners for the first time were allowed to take part. Radicals plastered leaflets across the country during the night before the voting, calling for an election boycott.

The balloting followed widespread clashes in East Berlin the night before between right-wing radicals and foreign workers. Eight people were reported arrested and five were injured.

Walter Berghofer, who was elected as Communist mayor of Dresden in 1986 in elections that

were widely presumed to be rigged, lost a bid to hang onto his office, the projections indicated. Sunday's voting was only the second free election in East Germany's four-decade history and brought the revolt against Stalinist oppression full circle.

In the last local elections on May 7, 1989, the Communist government had claimed that candidates it backed won 99 per cent of the vote.

The protests that followed eventually exploded into the mass demonstrations that ousted hard-line Communist leader Erich Honecker in October and opened the Berlin Wall.

The Christian Democrats won the March elections by promising prosperity to East Germans through a fast merger with West Germany and a quick shift to a free market economy.

Since then, there have been widespread fears that East Germans will suffer unemployment and lower living standards when they lose their vast Socialist subsidies.

De Maiziere voted Sunday in his home district in East Berlin and called the elections the "second important test of democracy in the country."

The elections likely were the last for East Germany as a sovereign state. Unification with West Germany is expected to be completed next year.

Kashmiri militants close Srinagar as government officials arrive

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A widely observed general strike called by Kashmiri militants fighting to be free of Indian rule virtually shut down Srinagar Monday as government officials of Jammu and Kashmir state arrived for the summer.

The officials of India's only Muslim-majority state arrived over the weekend from Jammu, the winter capital on the edge of the north Indian plain, without their families and under heavy guard.

The state government moves in May to cool Srinagar, centre of the Himalayan Kashmir Valley, to escape the plains heat.

This year the move has greatly worried the officials, the majority of whom are Hindu. Strikes and demonstrations in Jammu preceded the move.

Officials said they had left their families behind in Jammu, fearing they could become the targets of militants, whose long-running agitation against Indian rule exploded into an uprising in mid-January.

More than 300 people have been killed since.

On Monday, most shops were closed and only government transport — much of it heavily guarded convoys taking the offi-

cials to work — was on the streets.

Traders said they had been offered protection if they would open their shops, but there were no immediate signs that any were taking advantage of the offer.

Normally heavy security was reinforced, with new roadblocks and sandbagged positions sealing all roads entering the city, the centre of the uprising.

Hotels and government dormitories where the officials were staying their arrival over the weekend were also under heavy guard.

The militants want either a re-united, independent Kashmir — Pakistan now controls one-third of the disputed territory — or they want the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir to join Pakistan. Their campaign subsided in April during a three-week curfew.

Curfew breaks of up to 10 hours have been allowed during the past two weeks, but in recent days militant activity has increased significantly, police said.

They said militants attacked security patrols in the teeming old city of Srinagar Sunday. Militant spokesmen claimed more than 20 security men were killed in the attacks.

Police said only one had been

killed, along with a woman who died in hospital after being hit in a crossfire.

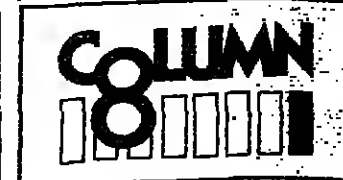
India blames Pakistan for the uprising, saying Islamabad arms and trains the militants in its part of Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charge, which has led to heated exchanges and fears of a fourth war between the two countries.

The neighbours have fought two wars already over Kashmir. New Delhi has told Islamabad it would do whatever was necessary to stem an alleged flow of militants and arms from the Pakistan side into the Kashmir Valley, if Pakistan did not. It refused to rule out force.

Snow is melting in the high Himalayan passes through which newly trained rebels enter the valley.

Indian police said there had been a surge in clashes between paramilitary security forces and militants over the past few days in the north and the northwest parts of the valley, where some routes lead down from the mountain passes.

They said militants for the first time had used rocket-propelled grenades against security forces in battles that killed 22 militants and two paramilitary troopers over the weekend.



Charles shows off his sketches

URBINO, Italy (AP) — Prince Charles humbly showed off his watercolour sketches Sunday in the House of Raphael, the Renaissance artist. "I still can't believe that amateur sketching will lie on display in Raphael's go on display in Raphael's house," the Prince of Wales said at the invitation-only unveiling of 57 of his watercolours. "I only hope the great master doesn't turn in his grave," Charles said in brief remarks to inaugurate the exhibit, which lasts until June 14. The exhibit was described as Charles' first public display of his artwork outside the United Kingdom. Charles drew the sketches of scenes that charmed him during his travels, including the Tuscan countryside, a sandy scene in Saudi Arabia and places in Scotland and Hong Kong.

E. German minister wins political beauty contest

EAST BERLIN (R) — Not previously noted for their physical charms, male East German cabinet ministers found themselves contestants in a television beauty contest during coverage of the country's first free local elections Sunday. State television presenters, indulging in an unusual form of political analysis, invited the public to phone in their choice for East Germany's "mister minister." Viewers were treated to soft-focus shots of various bald heads, beards and potbellies accompanied by soft music to help them make their choice.

Runaway winner was Peter Michael Diestel, 38, the suave, dark-haired interior minister and deputy premier, with shaggy-haired Foreign Minister Markus Meckel coming in second. "It would have been nice to be voted best, or most active, minister, but I'm quite happy to accept this title too," a slightly bewildered Diestel told television reporters.

2 Norwegians walk to North Pole

OSLO (R) — Two Norwegians became the first people to walk unaided to the North Pole after completing an 800-kilometre trek over Arctic ice from Canada, an expedition spokesman said Sunday night. At least 13 previous attempts to reach the pole without help from dogs, ponies, snowscooters, powered boats or aircraft have failed. A rival British expedition from Siberia gave up about a week ago.

Chinese, Soviet and U.S. climbers reach top of Everest

PEKING (R) — A joint expedition of Chinese, Soviet and U.S. climbers who had planned to celebrate "Earth Day" by conquering Everest together finally reached the summit Monday, 15 days late because of bad weather. The official New China News Agency said two climbers from each country made it to the top of the 29,028-foot (8,848-metre) mountain from the Chinese side in Tibet early in the afternoon. The team planned to clear up piles of rubbish left on the world's highest peak by previous expeditions.

Man jailed after trying to pay fine with pennies

PARKERSBURG, West Virginia (AP) — A penny saved may be a penny earned, but Gary Wagner earned time in jail when he tried to use pennies to pay a \$141 fine. He spent three hours in the Wood County jail for contempt. County Magistrate Charles "Ed" Plum levied the fine early this year after Wagner pleaded guilty to battery after shoving a neighbour. Monday was his deadline for paying the fine, and he showed up juggling 12 canvas bags filled with pennies. The magistrate on duty, Margaret Monroe, told Wagner he had to collect the pennies in 10 rolls of 50. After they argued awhile, Monroe called Plum into the courtroom, and he told Wagner the same thing. When Wagner again refused, Plum cited him for contempt and fined him \$150. Wagner, 33, refused to put the pennies into rolls. Plum hit him with a 10-day jail term, saying it would give him time to wrap up the change. Wagner's parents paid the \$141 three hours after he was jailed. Plum dropped the contempt charge and additional fine.

Roh asks S. Koreans to help prevent nation from 'chaos'

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo asked South Koreans Monday to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos" but radical students stormed his party's headquarters, firebombed a provincial party office and clashed with police in six cities.

The radical National Council of Student Representatives and the People's Alliance, an umbrella alliance of 17 dissident groups, announced new nationwide protests aimed at forcing the governing Democratic Liberal Party to disband. The group urged citizens to join them.

Security was being stepped up around government office buildings to guard against surprise attacks in connection with a governing party convention to be held Wednesday, according to the National Police Headquarters.

As Roh was speaking on

national television from the presidential palace, 21 radical students seized his party's headquarters and fought off riot police for 10 minutes with firebombs and metal pipes, police and witnesses said.

The radicals barricaded themselves inside a third-floor office, broke the office windows and threw firebombs at police while shouting anti-government slogans, witnesses said.

Korean news reports said the group scattered leaflets demanding the ouster of U.S. Ambassador Donald P. Gregg.

The current governing party was formed by a merger, announced in January, of Roh's party and two conservative opposition parties, and radicals claim Gregg devised the merger to serve conservative U.S. business interests.

The windshields of three cars in an outdoor parking lot were shattered by firebombs and some furniture in the governing party offices was smashed, police said. Five students were injured and all 21 were arrested, police and news reports said.

Radical students also fought campus outside university campuses in Kwangju, Muan, Pusan, Yonjin and two small towns outside Seoul, according to Yonhap, the South Korean news agency. About 2,500 students took part, it said. There were no reports of arrests or injuries.

Ten radical students hurled firebombs and smashed windows at the Wonsu City chapter of the governing party and fled before police arrived, Yonhap said.

Radical students are a small but vocal minority and many Koreans do not approve of their tactics.

China condemns Western press freedoms

PEKING (R) — China Monday renewed its attack on the Voice of America (VOA), accusing the U.S. government radio of opposing the Communist Party and socialism during political unrest last June.

The People's Daily, in a lengthy commentary, also accused unnamed U.S. publications of spreading counter-revolutionary rumours.

"During the counter-revolutionary rebellion at the end of spring and beginning of summer last year, the Voice of America and American publications disseminated rumours and absurdities that opposed China's Communist Party and socialism and attacked our government's efforts to put down turmoil," the official newspaper said.

"At the same time, reports on the real situation during the turmoil were blocked," it added. The commentary also said press freedom in the United States was designed to serve the ruling class and that only Socialist press freedom had the interest of the masses at heart.

Pope urges Mexicans to fight corruption, help poor

MEXICO CITY (R) — Pope John Paul urged Mexicans to fight corruption, help the poor and protect human rights.

He was speaking in Mexico's holiest shrine Sunday, the first day of a gruelling 10-city tour.

"You cannot remain indifferent before the suffering of your brothers, before poverty, corruption, and before outrages to the truth and to human rights," he said in the ultra-modern Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Latin America's most popular shrine.

The Pope did not elaborate on his comments made before some 11,000 people inside the basilica, built on the spot where the Madonna is said to have appeared in the 16th century, and the tens of thousands who listened to the ceremony outside.

During the ceremony the Pope blessed three 16th-century Indian children killed for converting to Christianity, a man who claimed to have seen the Madonna in 1531 and a 19th-century priest who founded a religious order to help the poor.

"We are living through crucial moments for the future of this dear country as well as for this Latin American continent," the Pontiff said at the airport as President Carlos Salinas de Gortari welcomed him on his second trip to the country he first visited in 1979.

The Pope said all Mexicans had to work together to overcome the hard times brought on by economic problems, including widespread under-employment and the developing world's second-largest foreign debt.

He urged Mexicans to build "a more just, fraternal and hospitable society... you must bring about a growing solidarity among all Mexicans... a decisive commitment for the common good."

Army rebels tell Aquino to quit, threaten U.S.

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine army rebels trying to overthrow President Corason Aquino said Monday they had corrected mistakes made in previous coup attempts and were now confident of success.

Rightwing rebel leader Gregorio Honasan, a cashiered army colonel, warned the United States against intervening again to save Aquino.

"We have several plans to deal with them (the U.S.), including the use of extreme measures," Honasan said in an interview published in the Philippine daily Newsday.

The special warfare expert did not explain what he meant by extreme measures, nor did he hint when the next putsch was likely.

He said the last attempt to remove Aquino in December failed because "the Americans intervened, we had extra luggage, we had poor communications and we relied on the wrong people."

"We have corrected most of our mistakes and we are confident we will make it next time," Honasan, 42, was quoted as saying.

Aquino asked for U.S. help last December when around 3,000 troops led by Honasan attempted to oust her by taking over the business district and several military camps in Manila.

Although U.S. planes did not attack the rebels, they flew repeated intimidation flights over the Philippine capital, turning the tide in Aquino's favour by preventing rebel planes taking off.

Honasan said he had 1,000 men training in a camp on the main island of Luzon and had other camps in the central and southern Philippines.

Australia probes train crash that killed 6, injured over 100

SYDNEY (AP) — Authorities said Monday they were investigating the possibility of brake tampering on a train that was smashed in the rear by another, resulting in at least six deaths and more than 100 injuries.

Rescue teams continued cutting at the wreckage of a steam train and an inter-urban express, fearing more people were trapped. The crash happened near the hamlet of Brooklyn, 40 kilometres north of Sydney.

Police said that of the 106 people injured, six were in critical condition.

New South Wales Transport Minister Bruce Baird said it was possible an emergency brake on the steam train, which had been trying to pick up speed before it was hit in the rear by the express, had been set. He said the state rail authority was investigating.

"There is evidence the hand-operated brake in the third (passenger) carriage was on," Baird said.

The inter-urban passenger train with an estimated 100 people on board was travelling south to Sydney from the city of Newcastle when it slammed into the rear of the steam train as it struggled up a steep gradient.

The steam train also was travelling south with about 330 people who had attended a jazz festival in the Hunter Valley, 160 kilometres north of Sydney.

"Clearly there was something wrong as to why it didn't get up the hill," Baird said.

Debris from the two trains was littered for up to 100 metres.

Police initially speculated the killers were Communist rebels. Robbery did not appear the motive because Fredette's watch and wallet were not taken, police said.

On Sunday, however, police commanders said they believed the rebels were not involved and that Fredette was either killed by mistake or as part of a drug deal.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said some senior officials still suspected the killers were NPA guerrillas.

The sources said civilian authorities were eager to exonerate the rebels so the navy would lift restrictions on its personnel. The economies of Olongapo and Angeles, home of Clark Air Base, depend heavily on spending by off-duty troops.

Police said no one saw the actual shooting. But in a report to national police headquarters in Manila, Torres said two witnesses saw the suspects at the crime scene at the time of the attack.

Torres said the murder weapon — believed to be a 38-caliber pistol — was not found.

Officials released no information on whether Angeles and Burke were believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) or assassins hired by the Communist guerrilla group.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killing of Fredette, who was on temporary duty here from the Marine Air Station at El Toro, California. He was fatally

wounded late Friday in Olongapo, a town near the U.S.-run Subic Bay Naval Base.

The U.S. military banned off-post leaves for the 40,000 troops. Defence Department civilians and military dependents at Subic Bay and five other U.S. bases in the Philippines after the killing.

Military officials said the restriction had not been lifted after the arrests.

Merchants in Olongapo complained that their businesses were being hurt by the ban on off-post leaves and by speculation that the rebels were responsible for the killing.

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FBI arrests drug cartel members in Stinger plot

MIAMI (Agencies) — FBI agents have arrested several people in a plot to buy Stinger anti-aircraft missiles for Colombia's Medellin drug cartel, federal officials said.

Several people were arrested in Miami over the weekend in an undercover operation, said a law enforcement official on condition of anonymity.

The suspects said they were working for reputed cartel leader Pablo Escobar, who is wanted by U.S. authorities on drug-trafficking charges, the source said. The missiles never changed hands, the source said.

A man was arrested in the Tampa area after promising

undercover agents he would provide Stinger missiles, the Florida source said. More than two pounds (a kilogram) of cocaine and one personal weapon were seized in that arrest, the source said.

The total number of people arrested was unclear.

A U.S. television network reported Sunday that associates of Escobar have been trying to buy Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and machine guns in a plot to assassinate President Virgilio Barco.

ABC said representatives of Colombia's Medellin cartel had been travelling in Florida in recent weeks offering up to \$6 million for 100 Stinger missiles and 1,000 machine guns.

Castro: Cuba can be another 'Vietnam or worse' for U.S.

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's armed forces, battle-tested in Africa, flexed their military muscle in nationwide manoeuvres and President Fidel Castro said Cuba would be another "Vietnam or worse" for the United States if it tried to attack.

The mobilisation of forces on the Communist-ruled island has gathered momentum since Wednesday, when the government launched the "Cuban Shield" exercise to counter what it said was the threat posed by three major U.S. military manoeuvres being held simultaneously in the Caribbean.

"The Yankee manoeuvre is an opportunity for us to bolder our own exercise," Castro said in a visit to a military command post in Havana.

The Cuban mobilisation of regular military forces, reservists and militia appeared to be one of the biggest since the 1962 missile crisis when Washington protested over Soviet missile bases on the island, Havana-based diplomats said.

Castro told reporters at the Havana command post: "We are preparing ourselves so that what

happened to the Yankees in Vietnam — or worse — can happen here."

Washington said Friday that the U.S. exercises — "Ocean Venture," "Global Shield" and "Defex" — were routine and not aimed against Cuba.

Describing the Cuban exercise as extensive, Castro said it was better for the island to go on the alert 100 times than to be caught once by a surprise U.S. attack.

President George Bush has fiercely criticised Castro's government for refusing to follow political reforms in Eastern Europe and change the island's one-party Communist system.

Across Cuba at the weekend, firing ranges crackled to the sound of automatic arms fire as civilians in the militia uniform of green trousers and blue shirts received weapons training from military instructors.

Cubans from 17-year-old youths to 65-year-old grandmothers put on black camouflage paint, crawled through assault courses and learned how to shoot and throw hand grenades.

